

IUPUI Launches Its Inaugural Common Theme

Sharing a book, theme and series of related events every year will help promote campus unity, conversation and collaboration and connect us with our wider communities.

Building on our record of innovation, the diverse IUPUI community is embarking on the first campus-wide Common Theme in 2009-2010: Consuming Well for the Wealth of Communities, from IUPUI to the World. We invite all students, staff and faculty to join in reading and discussing Bill McKibben's national bestseller *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future*. Join the conversation this year and the next, in the classroom, on the Common Theme website, at Common Theme events and throughout the community.

This first Common Theme focuses on three timely topics:

- **Healthy Communities**
- **Green Economy**
- **Sustainability and Social Justice**

McKibben's book and the Common Theme ask us to consider:

- Can we have a conversation about better and worse ways to consume?
- What do we know already about green business, climate change, and sustainability?
- What promotes happiness in our communities, and how might we support these local forms of wealth?
- How should we rebuild and reinvest in our economy, lives and society?

Check out the web resources available at: http://www.iupui.edu/common_theme/

Help engage students in the Common Theme through the Teaching Tools and Contests:

- Reflection questions and a reading guide on *Deep Economy*
- A weekly blog on the highlighted pages from *Deep Economy* each week
- Sample teaching modules
- Lists of related books and films
- *New York Times* and *USA Today* articles on Common Theme topics
- Common Theme Student Essay Contest. Deadline March 31, 2010
- Common Green Campus Sustainability Contest for students and staff. Deadlines December 1, 2009 and April 1, 2010

The Common Theme Calendar showcases the range of events on the healthier, greener and more sustainable communities we might build together. Some featured events are:

- Sept. 8 Common Theme Kick-off: Sustainability 101. From noon to 1:15 in Democracy Plaza there will be a panel of experts on building a more sustainable university. Part of the Green Generation Fair, 10-2 in Taylor Courtyard.
- McKibben's keynote on *Deep Economy* on Nov. 9, 4:30-5:45 in Campus Center 450 (free and open to the public). A Spirit and Place event, with IUPUI 40th Anniversary support.
- Other events this fall feature Sen. Richard Lugar, Evelyne Njoki, Imani Workshops, Kenya, and Winona LaDuke, founder of the White Earth Land Recovery Project.

Be Informed, Get Engaged, Make an Impact