

Dr. Paydar's Perspective: Civic Engagement and IUPUI

Volume 2. Issue 1



Nasser Paydar, IUPUI Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer

Name and Role: Nasser Paydar, IUPUI Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer, Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

Campus Involvement (What service/civic engagement activities, have you been involved in, either on campus or in the community):

While Chancellor at Indiana University East, I was engaged in a number of projects in collaboration with the community that engaged our students, faculty, and staff and benefitted local citizens. My role as Chancellor, however, was primarily to encourage and empower faculty, many of whom are deeply engaged in the community. Additionally, I have served as chair of the Indiana Campus Compact Board of Directors. Indiana Campus Compact is the state's only higher education association that focuses solely on civic engagement. The organization brings together representatives from Indiana's public and private institutions and provides programs, services, and resources to strengthen their abilities to forge campus-community partnerships that benefit their communities.

My academic discipline is engineering, which prepares me to solve problems. As an engineering faculty member, I have worked with major U.S. companies to research and solve problems in industry, receiving grants from local and national organizations to support this work.

IUPUI's tagline is "IUPUI: Where IMPACT is Made—Everyday". How do you think civic engagement helps "make an impact" at IUPUI?

I have long recognized and believed in the power of the university to contribute to economic development and, through civic and community engagement, to improve the quality of life in communities in partnership with community members.

What advice would you give to others on campus (students, staff, faculty, administrators) as they think about getting more civically engaged in their work?

My advice to students, staff, and faculty at IUPUI is to take action and look for ways that your talents and skills can help the communities in which you live, study, and work. Everyone has talents, expertise, and know-how that can contribute to improving quality of life and serving others, and these are best developed through practice and active engagement.

What social issue in society you are currently most passionate about? Why?

I am a strong believer in the new economy and the potential of university-community partnership to contribute to economic development opportunities and actions that lead to more healthy and prosperous communities. Implicit in our campus's name is its connection to our community, and I welcome the opportunity to join with the engaged faculty, students, and staff at IUPUI to strengthen our commitment to our community and our contributions to its success.

