



2735 East 10th Street, CA110
Bloomington, IN 47405
Phone: 1-800-346-3077
Fax: 812-855-4940
E-mail: drugprc@indiana.edu
www.drugs.indiana.edu

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Events

- **June 8-10 Indiana Rural Health Association's annual conference.**
- **July 11-16 Grantsmanship Training Program.**
- **August 2-4 Many Voices ~ One Vision conference**
- **October 2-5 Alcohol, Other Drug and Violence Education in Higher Education**
- **October 24-26 Fund raising for Small Non profits**
- **October 27-28 Proposal Writing**
- **November 18 Indiana Youth Institute Conference**

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The Indiana Prevention Resource Center is funded, in part, by a contract with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Mental Health and Addiction, financially supported through HHS/Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant. The IPRC is operated by the Indiana University Department of Applied Health Science and School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. It is affiliated with the Department's Institute of Drug Abuse Prevention.

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ACROSS OUR DESKS TO YOURS

Extreme Public Health By JoBeth McCarthy-Jean, MPH

Bloomington – Spring 2005's Indiana Public Health Association (IPHA) conference, "Extreme Public Health: Preparing for All Possibilities," drew more than 200 participants from across the state to discuss and debate the challenges of today's public health system. Public health practitioners, students, researchers, administrators, and representatives from the business sector convened at Bloomington's Indiana Memorial Union at Indiana University, May 18th through the 20th.

The Honorable Peggy Welch, Indiana House of Representatives, District 60, opened the conference motivating the audience to collaborate and befriend their media and legislative and representatives to help advance Indiana's public health system.

Dr. David Gallahue, Dean of the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, later spoke in concert with other presenters. In his speech, Dean Gallahue shared that public health issues have now taken on a primary role, both in local and national policy design, development and implementation. He went on to mention that public health professionals at all levels, private or public, need to marshal their efforts and target the citizens of Indiana with interventions that not only educate, but also empower them to make healthy lifestyle choices.

Dean Gallahue's speech complimented Dr. Judith A. Monroe's, Indiana State Health Commissioner, keynote speech "Public Health in Indiana, Windows of Opportunity" which focused on how to increase the value of public health in the eyes of the public, and the influence of public health in increasing the life spans by 25 of the 30 year increment achieved over the last century. Dr. Monroe discussed the future of Indiana's public health system and mechanisms that are being implemented to advance the health of Hoosiers. She shared ways in which economic strategies with an emphasis on building human capital, education, and improvement of personal habit as the cornerstones for advancing

health. She traced the historical success of public health in tackling infectious disease, such as polio, measles and chicken pox, and personal habit, the new threat to the health of Indiana citizens, which has a direct association with increased morbidity and mortality. Dr. Monroe highlighted Indiana's health priority areas as; personal health management, children and adolescent health promotion, access to quality health care, education and community based programs. Dr. Monroe ended her presentation by presenting the need for an adaptive approach to solving public health issues. This, she said, "can be achieved by creating linkages and collaborations, empowering individuals and creating synergy among the organizations and partners in public health."

Mickey Mauer, president of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, later shared compelling data with the audience proving that enhancing the public's health returns a robust economy. Following his speech, Mauer served on a panel of experts such as Dr. Virginia A. Caine, Director of the Marion County Health Department, Peggy Welch, Bill Mays, Owner of Mays Chemical, Inc., Chancellor Charles Bantz of Indiana University – Purdue University, Indianapolis and facilitated by Dr. Edwin Marshall from the School of Optometry at Indiana University, Bloomington. Panelists engaged in a collegial discussion with conference participants on ways public health entities could partner with the business sector to improve health outcomes for Hoosiers.

Participants at the IPHA conference had the opportunity to meet other professional colleagues in the field of public health, present current research, learn about the challenges facing public health professionals today and engage in dynamic discussion forums.

