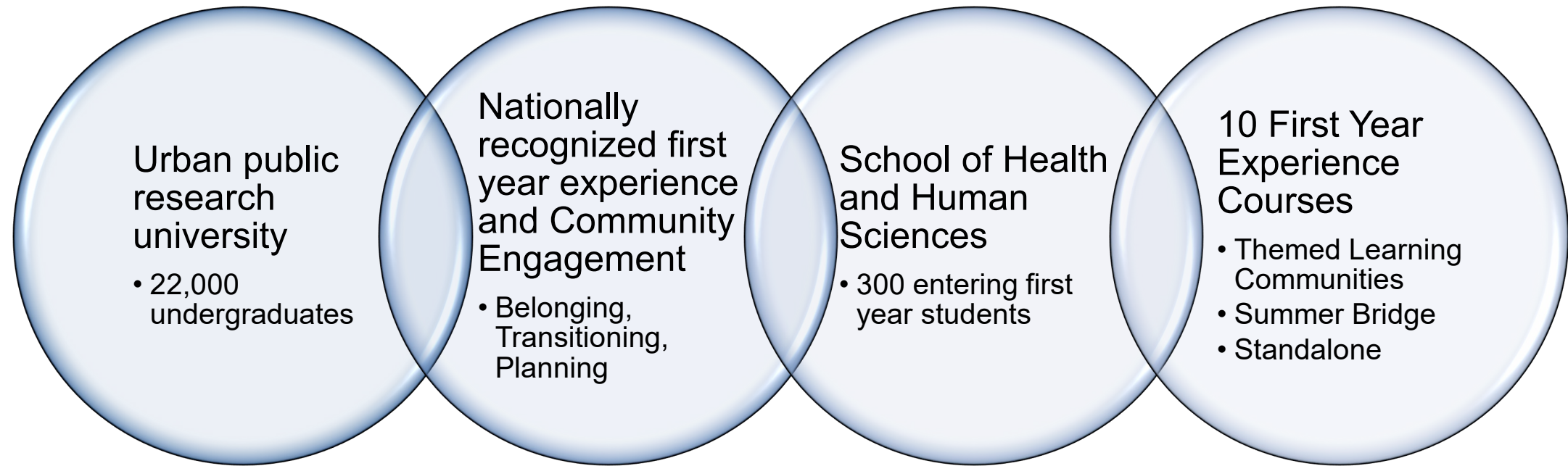# Fostering Belonging Through Engaging First-Year Students in the Community

Students in Transition, Indianapolis, IN 2018

Dr. Lisa Angermeier, Allison Plopper, Casey Collins and Grace Comerford

Who we are

Urban public research university
- 22,000 undergraduates

Nationally recognized first year experience and Community Engagement
- Belonging, Transitioning, Planning

School of Health and Human Sciences
- 300 entering first year students

10 First Year Experience Courses
- Themed Learning Communities
- Summer Bridge
- Standalone

Who is on the team?

1. Faculty Instructor

2. Academic Advisor

3. Student Mentor

4. Community Partners

5. Librarian

First Year Seminar Goals

Transitioning

Planning

Belonging

Student Learning Outcomes - At the end of this course the students will be able to:
1. *Connect with peers and instructional team members.*
2. *Identify individuals who can provide a personal support network.*
3. *Identify campus programs and resources related to academic, professional, and social development.*
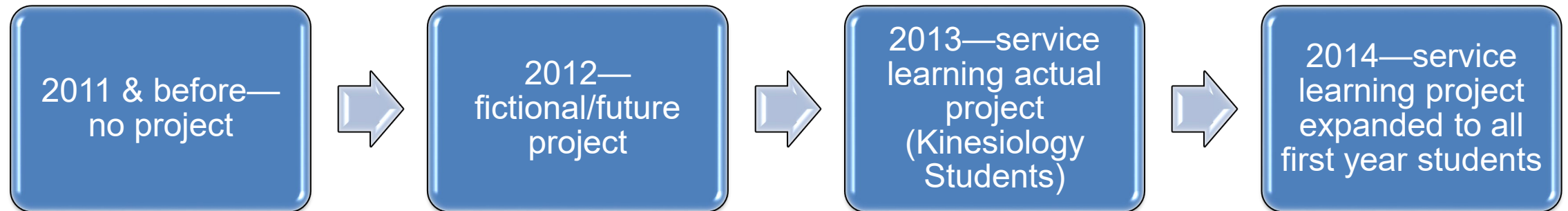
Defining Belonging

*Belonging encompasses **perceived social support on campus, feelings of connectedness, and the experience of mattering** (Strayhorn, 2012).*

Evolution of SHHS/PETM & Service Learning

2011 & before—no project → 2012—fictional/future project → 2013—service learning actual project (Kinesiology Students) → 2014—service learning project expanded to all first year students

Beyond Monumental

Monumental Kids Movement

– 7-9 week youth running program that culminates with the CNO Financial Indianapolis Monumental Marathon in November

– Started in 2012 with one school and 150 IPS students (IPS #19)

– In 2017, 60 Marion County schools participated and had 1739 running program graduates

– In 2018, the goal is to have 1,800 running program graduates and 65 schools

– https://beyondmonumental.org/programs/monumental-kids-movement/

Picture courtesy of Perfect Cut Productions, LLC

Monumental For Our Kids

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQWoI9Z661o

Overview of Service Learning Project

- Piloted the project with three first year seminar courses in 2013

- Students completed a 6-week before or after school program culminating with a 5k or 1 mile race at the Indianapolis Monumental Marathon

  - IUPUI students signed up to attend one of the participating IPS schools one day a week for approximately 1 hour

  - PE teacher or other teacher at the site runs the program with the assistance of other teachers and the IUPUI students

  - Running activities and games to promote movement and fun

Logistics of the Project

- **Working with IPS liaison to coordinate all the school days and times**

- **Create a sign up procedure**

- **Meet with each first year class to schedule/train students**

- **Background Checks**

- **Scheduling reminders**

- **Working through the various hiccups**

- **Coordinate day of race activities (IPS, IUPUI, BM)**

Semester Overview

- Week 2 of class Casey gives an overview of partner organization

- Week 4 project coordinator comes to class to work through online scheduling (and issues) background checks, shirt sizes

- Weeks 5-10 student attend individual service learning visits

- Week 7 mid project reflection and check in

- Week 10 give final details and event day instructions

- Week 11 Event!!

- Week 12 event debrief and reflection

- Week 14 final project due

Assignments Related to Community Engagement Experiences

1. Insta-Tweet-a-Snaps

2. Service-Learning Visits*

3. Digital Story*

4. ePortfolio*

*TILTed Assignments – Transparency in Learning and Teaching

Experience from a Student's Perspective

- First Day

  - Icebreakers and Overview

- Various Assignments

  - Scavenger Hunt, 4-year Plan, Insta-tweets

- Service Learning Experience

  - Preparation and Race Day

- Reflection of FYS

IUPUI SCHOOL OF HEALTH & HUMAN SCIENCES

From Student to Mentor

- Why did I come back to work with First Year Students?

- What was my role as a mentor?

- How was my second Indiana Monumental Marathon experience different than my first?

Experience from the Community Partner's Perspective

- Casey can add bullets and a picture

Challenges

- **Transportation of the IUPUI students**

- **Background checks**

- **Registration/technology**

- **Outside of class time**

- **Working with an outside organization**

- **Alternative assignment**

- **Times available for students (could conflict with college class schedule)**

- **Lead teachers occasionally absent**

- **Difference in IPS/IUPUI school schedules** (school breaks)

- **Getting the students to the race (early)**

Existing or New Project Ideas

- Ideas

- Community Partners or Campus Partners

- Challenges

Tips/Suggestions for Implementation

- **Be flexible!**

- **Identify possible partnerships and key stakeholders associated**

- **Develop a manageable time frame**

- **Start small (one school before ten)**

- **Dream big**

- **Identify a coordinator for the service learning project**

- **Administrative support**

Questions?

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