

News at IUPUI

CAMPUS LIFE

Welcoming Campus Innovation Fund to benefit International House

BY MANDY BRAY

Feb. 7, 2018



In May 2017, the IUPUI Office of International Affairs, in partnership with Housing and Residence Life, received a \$25,000 grant from Chancellor Nasser H. Paydar's Welcoming Campus Innovation Fund <<https://chancellor.iupui.edu/initiatives-celebrations/welcoming-campus/innovation/index.html>> . They were awarded the grant for their project "Creating Global and Local Community through the International House."

The Welcoming Campus Innovation Fund award will support the inaugural two years of the Global Scholar program, funding one U.S. and one international student resident with a \$2,500 housing stipend each year through 2018-19.

The award incentivizes student leaders to stay for a second year in the residence. During this time, they will work to build intercultural community through promoting resident participation in I-House activities that support the global learning goals of the I-House program.

Support from the Welcoming Campus Innovation Fund will provide a scholarship program for International House <<http://international.iupui.edu/indianapolis/housing/international-house.html>> student leaders and bring I-House alumni with established international and domestic careers back to campus during IUPUI's 50th-anniversary year, 2018-19.

In fall 2017, I-House selected its inaugural two Global Scholars for the 2017-18 year: Deepali Balasubramani, an Indian student from Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Nova Ellis, a Hoosier from Pendleton.

Since 1991, I-House has served as a residential-based learning community on the IUPUI campus and has housed more than 1,100 American and international students from nearly 20 countries each year, living side by side. Through immersive living with people from other countries, American and international residents alike take part in dialogue and develop friendships that allow them to understand cultural differences and be better prepared to solve global challenges facing their generation.

"By expanding International House programming and launching the Global Scholar program, I-House has the potential to bolster student learning on campus and in partnership with our metropolitan area as Indianapolis becomes a globally engaged city," said Gil Latz, project lead and IUPUI associate vice chancellor for international affairs.

Announced in 2016 with \$1 million in total funding, the Welcoming Campus Innovation Fund is designed to support collaborative, sustainable projects proposed by IUPUI faculty, staff and students. The projects chosen will help make IUPUI a destination campus that supports the highest levels of achievement.

Funding from the grant will enhance programming by helping to bring back I-House alumni for speaking engagements on campus, as well as scale up existing I-House activities including resident field trips and service projects. I-House community events to be piloted in the current school year include a World Religions Day in January and an alumni panel at the 14th Annual IUPUI International Festival on Feb. 14.

2017-18 Global Scholars



Three students pose in celebration of their favorite place on campus. *Photo courtesy of the Office of International Affairs.*

+ Deepali Balasubramani, the 2017-18 international Global Scholar from Dubai, is a sophomore majoring in biomedical engineering and also serves as an international peer mentor at IUPUI. Balasubramani lived in I-House two years ago and, after a year living off-campus, was eager to return. Balasubramani is passionate about leading I-House teams on service projects.

"It's important to learn about different cultures and to work on the skill set of being accepting of different ideas, which is valued by workplaces today," said Balasubramani, who is considering a career in 3-D bioprinting.

Nova Ellis, the 2017-18 domestic Global Scholar, began an interest in international activities when she took Spanish in high school, and she now has a bucket-list goal to

I- House Alumni Panel: Exploring Global Connections

- When: Feb. 14, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- Where: Campus Center Room 305

- Moderated by: Jill Jean-Baptiste
- Alumni Panelists: James Guy, Leah Van Antwerp, Chok Leang Ooi

College provides an unparalleled experience to live and learn alongside students from different backgrounds, with friendships and professional connections that last a lifetime. Three panelists who lived at IUPUI's International House during different eras reflect on the skills created and connections gained and offer tips for current students and alumni on leveraging the power of IU's global alumni network.



International peer mentor Deepali Balasubramani stops for a photo in front of her beloved home. *Photo courtesy of the Office of International Affairs.*

visit every Spanish-speaking country in the world. As a freshman in I-House last year, she formed close friendships with residents from many countries and became very involved in planning house activities. Ellis said she is excited about working to build more community in I-House during her second year. She is a 21st Century Scholar majoring in chemistry and pre-veterinary medicine.

"Living in I-House was different than I thought it would be, because I'm set in my ways and hadn't lived with people from other cultures before," Ellis said. "We had to work through some challenges, but it's been a lot of fun to see how people from other cultures live. I've met my best college friends through I-House."

To continue the legacy of I-House and the Global Scholars program after 2019, IUPUI staff, faculty and community members can support I-House through the IU Foundation.

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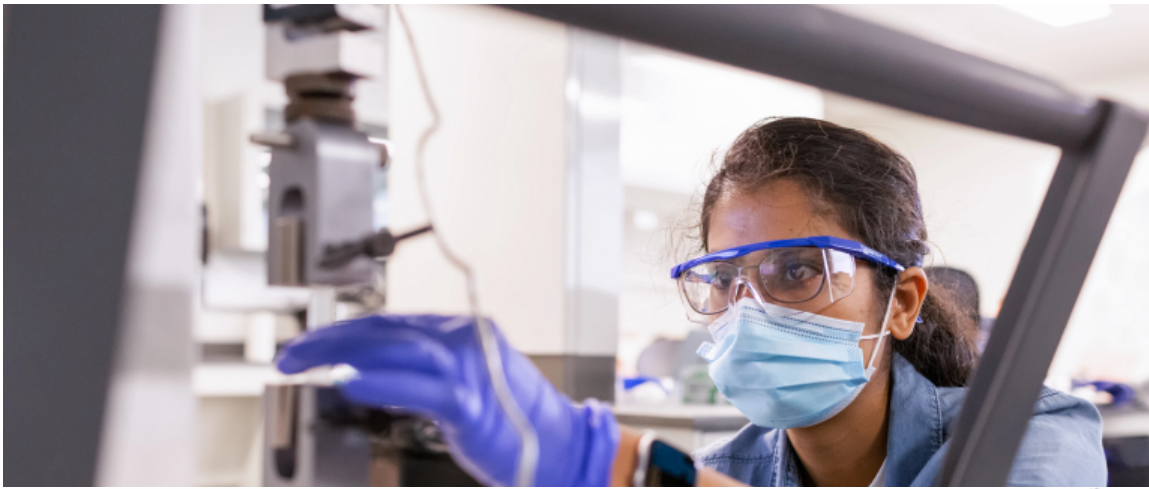


Global Scholar Nova Ellis is excited to help build a community at I-House. *Photo courtesy of the Office of International Affairs.*

communications at the Office of International Affairs at IUPUI.

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