

# MONTHLY UPDATE



## IDAHO POLICY INSTITUTE, JUNE 2020

### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Quite a bit has changed at Idaho Policy Institute in the last several months. As a team, we've become adept at working remotely and have found ways to connect through our virtual Thoughtful Thursday social gatherings and team-wide chess tournaments. We've welcomed two new full-time, year-round staff, McAllister Hall and Dr. Cheong Kim. We've also wished founding director Greg Hill good luck as he moves to South Korea for his new position with the University of Utah. Greg helped build the foundation for what has become an impactful and resilient institute. Finally, I've taken on the role of Interim Director and new instructor of the MPA Capstone class. I'm looking forward to working with the IPI team to continue scaling our work across Idaho and beyond.

Since Greg and I launched IPI in 2016 we've had the opportunity to work with over 30 clients in Idaho, several others from across the U.S., and even one international client. Our sponsored projects have totaled over \$1.2 million. The IPI staff has grown from two full-time staff to eight and we've also worked with several interns, undergraduate researchers, and masters and PhD graduate students. As a result, the impact IPI is making is widespread and well respected. It is the dedication of IPI's staff and students and the support of the leadership in the School of Public Service and at the University that has made all of this possible.

Now as we move into this new phase of IPI the team is embarking upon an ambitious strategic planning initiative. With the help of Holly Mikesell from the Provost's Office, we've taken the first step in this process and identified several goals for IPI including stabilizing our revenue model, diversifying the dissemination of our research, strengthening our relationships with our colleagues at Boise State, and providing actionable research opportunities for students. Soon we'll be reaching out to you for feedback so we can best align IPI with the strategic goals and initiatives in place across campus. Thanks, in advance, for your support of this process.

As we move into July, I have hope we'll all find a little space for some rest, relaxation, and peaceful reflection. It's certainly been difficult to find these last several months, but it's important to make that space so we can feel renewed as we turn our efforts to launch the new academic year.

**BEST,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vanessa Fry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**DR. VANESSA CROSSGROVE FRY**

# ANNOUNCEMENT

## VANESSA FRY NAMED INTERIM DIRECTOR

IPI is pleased to announce that research director Vanessa Fry will serve as interim director of the institute following the [departure of Greg Hill](#). Hill has accepted a new role as chief administrative officer and dean of faculty at the University of Utah's Asia campus in Incheon, South Korea.

"IPI's founding director, Dr. Greg Hill, has helped build the foundation for an impactful and resilient institute. I'm looking forward to working with the IPI team to continue scaling our work across Idaho and beyond," Fry said.

Effective this summer, Fry has also taken over the instruction of the Master of Public Administration capstone course. This fall, she will co-launch a Vertically Integrated Project (VIP) to allow students to engage in research to address housing issues in the Treasure Valley.

In 2016, Fry co-founded the Idaho Policy Institute with Greg Hill. Since then, Fry has led projects focusing on a number of issues including education, workforce development, transportation, and housing and homelessness. Her scholarship has been influential throughout the state and beyond.

Throughout her education and professional career, Fry has focused on utilizing multi-sector, evidenced-based solutions to address persistent social, environmental and economic issues. Prior to joining Boise State, Fry collaborated with a number of non-profit organizations; she was the co-founder and former chair of what is now Sun Valley Economic Development, a public-private partnership. She has taught as adjunct faculty at Presidio Graduate School for more than 10 years and also serves on the board of directors of the American Red Cross of Greater Idaho, where she assists with strategic planning and fundraising.

Institute faculty and staff look forward to continued growth under Fry's innovative and reliable leadership. The depth and breadth of Fry's experience, along with her work as the research director of the institute, embody IPI's core principles of collaboration, community responsiveness, educational impact, public engagement and research integrity.

Fry is an alumna of Boise State University, where she earned her doctorate in Public Policy and Administration from the School of Public Service. She also holds a MBA from Presidio Graduate School and a bachelor's degree in biology and fine art from Wittenberg University.

Outside of her work at Boise State, she can often be found running, floating rivers, skiing and exploring Idaho with her husband, two daughters and puppy. Learn more about her in the Idaho Policy Institute's [25 Questions series](#). This announcement was also featured in the [Idaho Business Review](#), where Fry was featured as one of the [2017 Women of the Year](#), as well as by the [AEI Leadership Network](#), which she attended in the fall of 2019.



# PROJECT UPDATE

## IDAHO PUBLIC TELEVISION ATTITUDINAL AWARENESS SURVEY

Team: Matthew May, Ben Larsen, and Vanessa Fry.

Idaho Public Television (IPTV) has partnered with the Idaho Policy Institute to facilitate a deeper understanding of how its programming is perceived by the general public, state officials, and its constituents (i.e. donors, viewers, etc.). IPI will gather qualitative data through a survey on perceptions of IPTV's organization and programming, including the program *Idaho Reports*. It's finding will be presented to IPTV in late August.

## MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WORKFORCE ANALYSIS

Team: Matthew May, Mackenzie Moss, Vanessa Fry, and Tasha Smagula.

A group of interdisciplinary faculty at Boise State University has partnered with Idaho Policy Institute to conduct a needs assessment of a proposed Master of Environmental Management (MEM) degree at Boise State. The assessment will include both a comparative and market analysis. The basis of that assessment will be to inform the creation of a MEM degree. The team is currently researching higher education market trends and reviewing similar degree programs in the region and across the country. The next project phase will be interviews with MEM program directors.

# MONTH IN REVIEW

## CONVALESCENT PLASMA DONATION

Vanessa Fry has been mentioned in several local articles pertaining to her recent convalescent plasma donation. In the articles "[Shining a light: A plasma donor, another mask maker and a rock painting family](#)," and "[American Red Cross asking for convalescent plasma donations](#)," Fry talks about her motivation for donating plasma after recovering from COVID-19. "To be able to give back after that is really good because I know so many people are suffering from it," said Fry. "So, having the opportunity to give them a chance to get healthy quicker feels really good and it feels like it's part of my responsibility to be able to do that." Vanessa is also on the Board of Directors for American Red Cross of Greater Idaho.

If you have recovered from COVID-19 and would like to donate your convalescent plasma, schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-RED CROSS or on their [website](#). The American Red Cross says you need to be coronavirus symptom free for 28 days, or 14 days symptom free from a negative COVID-19 test.

## IDAHO'S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE ARTICLE

Members of IPI's team that are working on the updated transportation infrastructure report published an article titled, "Idaho's Transportation System and Infrastructure are Vital to the State's Economy" in the June 2020 issue of *Idahoroads Magazine*. The article details some of the results of their collaborative project on transportation infrastructure in the state. The project addresses the following questions:

1. What is the state of transportation infrastructure in Idaho?
2. What has changed since the Governor's Task Force reported on the issue in 2011?
3. What policy alternatives are available to improve transportation infrastructure in Idaho?

The final report is due to be released this summer. The magazine is produced by the Idaho Association of Highway Districts and readers can download a copy on the [Idaho Association of Highway District's website](#).

# TEAM SPOTLIGHT

## TASHA SMAGULA

Tasha Smagula joined the School of Public Service's Team Support in the fall of 2018 as an Administrative Assistant. She works within IPI and assists with operations and supporting the team of researchers. Her work includes the administrative portion for all of IPI's projects, marketing and outreach (including creating these June updates), and helping facilitate team building activities. Tasha enjoys professional development, implementing action plans, and making sure everything is running smoothly. She is actively involved on campus and is in [Shared Leadership](#), the [ReADy program](#), and is a Senator for the Association of Classified Employees (ACE).

Tasha attended Boise State University for her undergraduate, earning a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies with a focus on sustainability. She is now working towards a master's degree in Organizational Performance and Workplace Learning from Boise State. Additionally, this fall she will be starting the Harvard Business School Online program at Boise State University's College of Innovation and Design where she will learn basic fluency in analytics, economics, and financial accounting.

An Idaho native, Tasha grew up in Meridian and now resides in Boise near campus. Her favorite local activities are hiking the Boise foothills, walking the greenbelt with her dogs, canoeing in the summer, and tending to an apiary of honeybees.



# NEWS

Vanessa Fry interviewed: "[American Red Cross asking for convalescent plasma donations](#)". *KIVI*. May 19, 2020.

Vanessa Fry interviewed: "[Shining a light: A plasma donor, another mask maker and a rock painting family](#)". *Idaho Press*. May 24, 2020.

Vanessa Fry interviewed: "[Viewpoint: Coronavirus's impact on foreign relations and diplomacy; COVID-19 convalescent plasma donation](#)". *KTVB*. May 31, 2020.

Vanessa Fry feature: "[Vanessa Fry noted by local media for donating plasma after COVID-19 infection](#)". *Boise State News*. June 1, 2020.

Project presentation mention: "[Ben Larsen and McAllister Hall present peer city study to Boise mayor's team](#)". *Boise State News*. June 9, 2020.

Transportation project article: "[Idaho Policy Institute publishes transportation study in industry magazine](#)". *Boise State News*. June 16, 2020.

Vanessa Fry feature: "[Vanessa Fry named interim director of the Idaho Policy Institute](#)". *Boise State News*. June 17, 2020.

Vanessa Fry feature: "[Vanessa Fry named interim director of the Idaho Policy Institute](#)". *Idaho Business Review*. June 23, 2020.

## PROJECTS IN PROPOSAL STAGE

- A Foundation for Research into Webcams as Tools in Informal STEM Learning (sponsor, National Science Foundation)
- Prevalence and Probability of Youth Homelessness (sponsor, U.S. Housing and Urban Development)
- Literacy Intervention Program Evaluation (sponsor, Idaho State Board of Education)
- Idaho Educational Policy Review (sponsor, yes. every kid.)
- Modeling resilience through a community lens: Discovering data, creating tools, and connecting people who make resilience possible (sponsor, National Science Foundation)
- Accessing Independence by Leveraging Partnerships to Catalyze a Smart and Connected Region – Caldwell, Idaho (sponsor, National Science Foundation)

## ONGOING SPONSORED PROJECTS

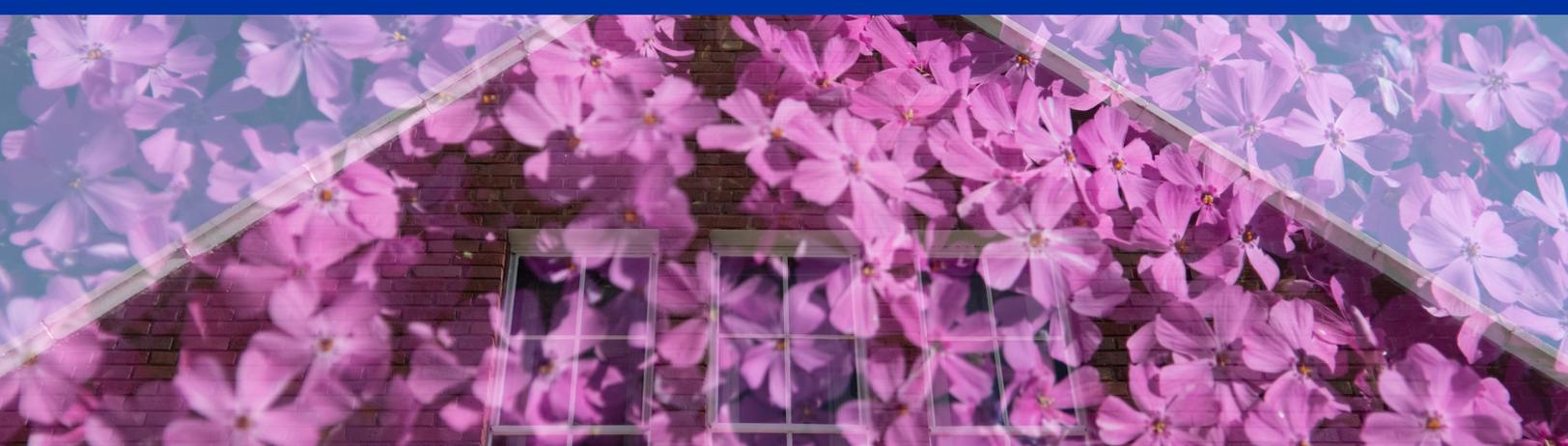
- Charter School Program Evaluation (sponsor, Bluum)
- SAMHSA Treatment and Transitions Evaluation (sponsor, Idaho Health and Welfare)
- Idaho's Transportation Infrastructure Funding (multiple supporters)
- New Path Community Housing Evaluation (sponsor, City of Boise)
- Streamflow Data Survey (Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center)
- Masters of Environmental Management Needs Assessment (multiple sponsors)
- Idaho Public Television Attitudinal Awareness Survey (sponsor, Idaho Public Television)

## ONGOING UNSPONSORED PROJECTS

- US Census Complete Count Committee
- MPA Employer Needs Assessment
- Statewide Eviction Study
- State of Local Governments Survey
- Relationships Between Municipal Governments and Tribal Governments

## PROJECTS CLOSING

- Charter School Diagnostic Site Visit Research Design (sponsor, Bluum)



## GET IN TOUCH



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