



IUPUI

# iDEW Connect

INFORMATICS DIVERSITY-ENHANCED WORKFORCE ■ IU SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS AND COMPUTING

WINTER EDITION 2020



## iDEW SCHOLARS CO-VALEDICTORIANS AND SALUTATORIAN

Leairra Carter and Charles Collins (left to right) are Providence Cristo Rey High School first co-valedictorians. Toriahn Armour is this years salutatorian.

Providence Cristo Rey High School seniors, Learria Carter and Charles Collins have made school history by becoming the first co-valedictorians. The two iDEW Scholars boast 4.25 and 4.26 grade point averages respectively. Following them closely, also an iDEW Scholar, is salutatorian Toriahn Armour with a 4.21 grade point average. The three have been accepted into 60 colleges between them.

This dynamic trio is all about STEM, as both Carter and Collins plan to study biochemistry and Armour will study pharmacy. Carter aspires to be

an oncologist, Collins a radiologist, and Armour a pharmacist.

When asked about their iDEW experiences, the three lit up but Collins was the first to speak up and said, “My iDEW experience set the tone for my wanting to have a career in a STEM field. iDEW opened my

eyes to the endless possibilities of technology.”

The other two agreed and Armour added, “I enjoyed my iDEW classes because it allowed me to work in a team and to problem solve.”

*Continued, page 2*

“My iDEW experience set the tone for me wanting to have a career in the STEM field. iDEW opened my eyes to the endless possibilities of technology.”

—Charles Collins, Providence Cristo Rey High School Class of 2020

## Historymakers

*Continued from page 1*

“My iDEW classes were all around fun. I enjoyed working on the chatbot and the trivia app. But what I enjoyed the most was being chosen to be a peer judge and judge my classmates’ projects during the semester-end event,” Carter added.

Providence Cristo Rey High School Interim President, Fred Yeakey spoke of the leadership skills and tenacity of the three scholars. “Charles has done an outstanding job as being a student leader and was elected by his peers to be the Student Government Association President. Leairra is a student leader both in student council and also in the classroom where she shows grace and leadership. I have personally witnessed her mentor younger students in and out of the classroom. Toriahn is not only a bright and gifted student but she also is a student athlete. She participates in multiple sports throughout the year all while maintaining her academics, said Yeakey. “It has been a pleasure and honor to watch them grow and blossom,” he added.

This awesome trio also made iDEW history by being the first iDEW Scholars to be honored as a valedictorian and a salutatorian.



## iDEW Students Prepare for the SAT, Visit Industry Partners, Engage in Summer Internships, and Attend National Conferences



Seven iDEW students, representing Pike, Providence Cristo Rey and Arsenal Technical high schools, attended the Black Data Processing Associates Conference held in Atlanta, Georgia August 1-3, 2019.

The iDEW Program has shown its ability to meet students where they are and assist them with finding opportunities that will help them reach their post high school and career goals. iDEW has proven that it is not your typical high school computer science class. iDEW Scholars are given opportunities to apply for internships with industry partners; visit IT companies; receive assistance with SAT preparation, as well as travel to national computing and IT conferences and engage with IT professionals.

“I have completed all six semesters of the iDEW curriculum and I wanted to stay involved in the program so this year I am working as a teachers assistant, said Titan Hoang, Pike High School senior. “During my study hall period I work with students who are currently enrolled in the iDEW class,” he explained.

Over the last three years, 25 iDEW students have earned summer internships with industry partners, 22 attended the ACM Richard Tapia in Computing Conference, 28 attended the National Black Data Processing Associates Conference, and hundreds of iDEW students have gone on industry visits and have participated in the School of Informatics and Computing summer workshops.

“iDEW is more than just a high school science class,” said Hoang. “I have learned so much from being a part of this program. I have participated in their summer workshops, gone on industry visits, out of state conferences, participated in SAT Prep through Center for Leadership Development, and last year I landed a summer internship with Eli Lilly.”

The iDEW student profile shows that the program not only offers students the opportunity to build skills in programming, design, and data, it also helps students to build confidence, develop intuition, exert influence and express a unique voice.

## iDEW Program Growth

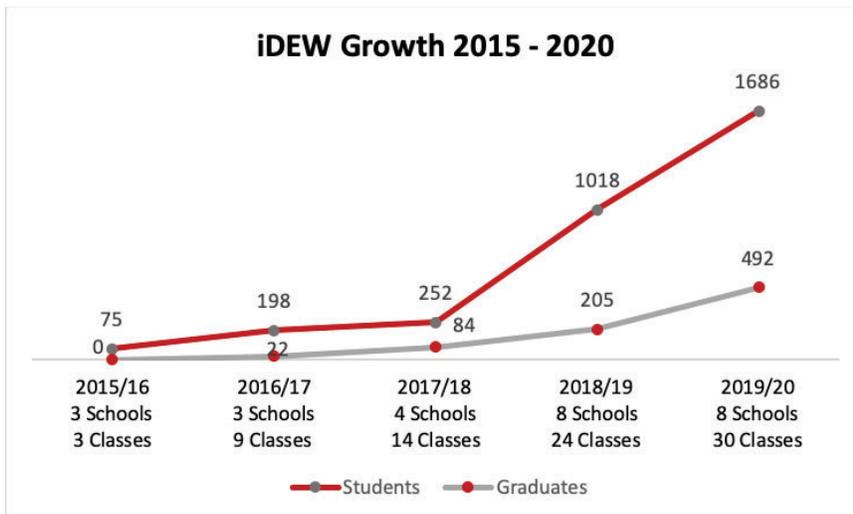
iDEW has almost grown 10 times in size since its inception five years ago. The inaugural program began in 2015 with one class at three schools. Currently the program has 30 classes in eight schools. This year, 777 students are participating and 1,653 students have completed the program to date.

As the iDEW graduating classes continue to increase, so does the success of the program. One hundred and twenty-two iDEW students graduated in 2019. One hundred of those students applied to attend college while two enlisted into the armed services, seven are in the workforce and 13 students post-high school plans are unknown.

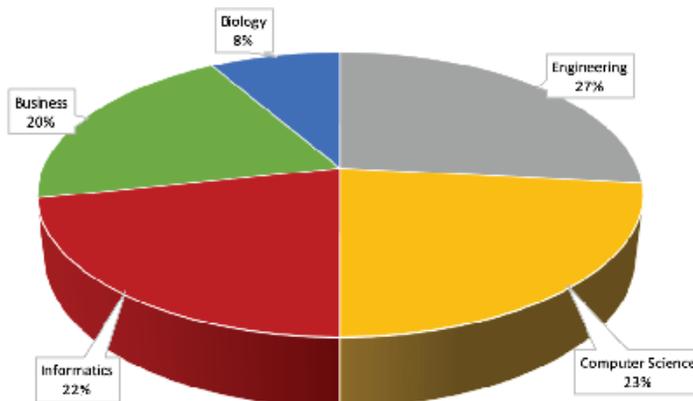
Sixty-one iDEW students graduated in 2018. Fifty-eight of the graduates applied to attend college and of those, 54 are currently enrolled in college courses. Four of the 61 students joined the armed forces, one is working toward a technical certification, and two reported taking a gap year.

iDEW's first graduating class, the spring of 2017, had 22 students and 18 of the 22 students are pursuing STEM degrees.

The iDEW class of 2020 has 290 seniors prepared to graduate. Of this year's graduates who have applied to college, 81% intend to enroll in a STEM-related degree program.



Top 5 College Majors -2020 iDEW Graduates



## iDEW to Host Computing by Design Teacher Training

This summer, the iDEW Program will host professional development for 75 Indiana high school teachers wishing to use our innovative curriculum, Computing by Design (CxD). The four day training will be held at Indiana University School of Informatics and Computing (SoIC) at IUPUI.

CxD is a professional development opportunity for teachers eager to teach courses in computer science driven by project-based learning.

Faculty from SoIC will teach the program courses, following a project-based learning methodology focused on developing lesson plans in computer science.

After the four-day immersive session in Indianapolis, teachers will have access to SoIC faculty for remote technical assistance to refine their own CxD classroom management plan and project design.

Following the technical assistance period, participants will submit their finished project online for feedback. Program participants then will participate in a final portfolio-based review, conducted by SoIC faculty, to finalize project design and high school lesson planning.

Thanks to funding from the Indiana Department of Education, this professional development training is being offered at no cost to participants, and includes accommodations for those traveling outside a 25-mile radius of Indianapolis.

# iDEW Scholars Give Insight On Their Collegiate Journey

With two and a half years, a year and a half, and one full semester of college under their belts, a few iDEW Scholars share what their collegiate journey has been like.



Cary Martin  
DePauw University  
Computer Science  
Freshman

## What would have you done differently in high school to prepare for college?

One thing I would have done differently is go after more leadership opportunities and make myself more uncomfortable. I've noticed in college, at least at DePauw, this is something I should get used to because I will be put in these positions. I feel you learn more about yourself when you're not comfortable and it therefore develops your character.

## What did you learn in your iDEW classes that assisted you in your first semester college classes?

My iDEW classes gave me a head start on learning different code languages. Even though I'm still learning a new language, I'm able to bring the same learning concepts from iDEW to the computer science class.

## What has been your biggest challenge?

My biggest challenge has definitely been time management. I found out the hard way that it is possible to over pack your schedule, but I was able to take a step back and apply myself to where I wanted to be and what I wanted to do.

## What could the iDEW program do to better prepare you for your freshman college experience?

I would love to see more leadership opportunities interwoven into the program. They already do a great job on getting their students out there, but there can never be enough opportunities! I'm insanely grateful for all the experiences that iDEW has given me and wouldn't trade them for anything.



Taniah Hamilton  
IUPUI  
Informatics  
Sophomore

## What skills did you learn in your first year that you will apply this year?

During my freshman year, I learned that reaching out for help on assignments is the best way to understand the material that is taught. Getting the help that you need allows you to focus your attention fully on the coursework.

## What are some of your goals for this semester?

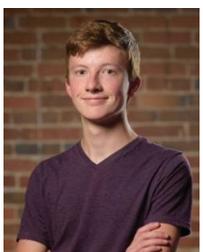
My goal for this semester is to take advantage of my time in a productive manner. Researching the information for assignments beforehand and reading material for the course ahead of time.

## What has been the biggest challenge you have faced since being in college?

Finding time for school, work, and personal life can seem to be impossible, but that's far from the truth. The internet has a lot of good information on setting successful schedules for yourself. I use the reminder app and calendar app for certain days on events, appointments to go to, and assignments to complete.

## If you could do your first year in college over again, what changes would you make?

I would try to not be afraid to ask questions. College seemed very intimidating for me, coming from a small private school to a largely populated university made me feel small at times. If I could do it over again, I would find the time to form relationships with intellectuals in my classes and send direct emails to professors about projects or assignments that I had questions about.



Jacob Green  
Purdue University  
Webpage  
Development &  
Design  
Junior

## What skills did you learn last year that you will apply this year?

Last year I learned some PHP, JavaScript, and UX design process skills. I learned to analyze a product to find what users do and don't like about it and improved the product based on those discoveries. I am sure that is a skill-set that I will continue to use.

## What is your dream career and have you begun working toward it?

My dream career would be working for a company either as a UX designer or web developer. My preference would be to work in a big city. I think a city the size of Indianapolis would be the smallest I would like to work. Currently I am building a portfolio to submit to companies.

## What advice would you give your 18-year-old self?

I would tell my 18-year-old self to utilize the free time you have now to advance yourself to be the person you want to be when you're older. Whether that means working on a hobby that makes you happy or setting yourself up for a successful career, be sure to use your time wisely in order to build you into the person you want to be.

## CONTACT US

[soic.iupui.edu/iDEW](http://soic.iupui.edu/iDEW)

Vicki Daugherty  
317-278-4123  
[vdaugher@iupui.edu](mailto:vdaugher@iupui.edu)

