



The Torch

The official newsletter for Indiana state employees

October 2018



Governor, WGU honor scholarship recipients

INDIANAPOLIS – Sandra Bishop never had any doubt that her granddaughter would someday do great things.

Tears of pride and joy welled in Bishop's eyes as she watched Brittany Mitchell shake the governor's hand and pose for a photo alongside the director of the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS), among other notable dignitaries.

"I'm really, really proud of her," Bishop said, drying her eyes with a tissue. "She's wanted to do this for awhile."

'This,' in this case, is returning to school to further her education.

Taking it to 'the next level'

All this took place on a late summer morning at the historic Indiana Governor's residence, at an event presided over by Gov. Eric Holcomb

and WGU Indiana Chancellor Allison Barber. All this happened because Mitchell and nine other State of Indiana employees believe some of the best chapters in their careers – and lives -- have yet to be written.

Three years into her job as a DCS family case manager, Mitchell is hoping to take her career to the next level by helping bring change to DCS policies and procedures that she hopes will eventually impact Hoosier children and their families in positive ways.

DCS Director Terry Stigdon has touted just such a philosophy since she took the reins of the agency in December 2017, so it was only natural that the two found much to talk about during a brief event last week that saw a total of \$50,000 donated to the employees.

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The Torch is published monthly by the Indiana State Personnel Department and is available online at in.gov/spd/2540.htm.

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Governor, WGU honor scholarship recipients

WGU Indiana received more than 100 applications for its Public Service Recognition Scholarship, but only 10 employees could be selected.

Among them, they represent seven state agencies, and collectively they work to ensure Hoosier children are safe, maintain roads, protect the environment, assist families in need, promote healthy living, boost the workforce, and enforce the rulings of the criminal justice system.

With this boost from WGU, the group of top-tier state workers got a vote of confidence from the online university, Gov. Holcomb, state agency administrators and others. And, as anyone who has vowed to chase a dream can attest, the support of others can make a world of difference.

Mitchell has plenty of that in her grandmother, who has always believed in Brittany's talent and work ethic.

Stigdon, a career nurse, broadened her educational horizons by working and taking classes simultaneously. She believes that effort helped open the doors that led her to her latest administrative role.

Mitchell, like her agency's director,

knows the work involved in making the commitment to balance a full-time career with college classes, but she's more than ready to get started.

The next step for Mitchell will be earning her MBA. An IU Bloomington grad, Mitchell finished her first round of college in 2011 with a degree in kinesiology and psychology. All along, she's set her sights on making things better in her Marion County community.

"I'm trying to be a true advocate for change," Mitchell said.

Her goal with WGU is to continue on that road.

"I want to stay with DCS and move into policy and practice," she said.

Mitchell's experience working directly with kids and families coupled with her educational background should be a solid foundation to pursue that dream.

Opening doors

Similarly, Tamara Havics sees new possibilities in her career.

An environmental engineer with the permits branch of the Indiana Department of Environmental



Indiana Department of Environmental Management environmental engineer Tamara Havics is excited about pursuing her MBA at WGU Indiana this fall. Havics hopes to learn new management skills that could open new doors in her career with IDEM.

Management (IDEM) Office of Air quality, Havics' return to school was partially inspired by her daughters' educational pursuits.

Two are in college now and she hopes to, in turn, inspire them by continuing to pursue her dream.

A graduate of Georgia Tech, Havics believes her studies at WGU will help her in her present career by potentially moving into management – an area in which she has previous experience.

No matter what, she'll be ready. "I hope I'm prepared for whatever life gives me next," she said. Same goes for David Grider, who hopes to take his career with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) to what Gov. Holcomb might call "the next level."

Grider believes his work as an INDOT highway technician can only improve by focusing on gaining new math skills via WGU.

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Department of Child Services family case manager Brittany Mitchell (center) was supported by her grandmother, Sandra Bishop, at a recent reception for WGU Indiana Public Service Recognition scholarship winners. DCS Director Terry Stigdon (far left) was at the event to congratulate Mitchell and fellow DCS scholarship recipient Amanda Hartman.

Governor, WGU honor scholarship recipients

Having earned his associate's degree in construction technology, Grider's greatest dream is to be an educator in Jennings County.

Along the way, he's part of a team building literal roads, and he's enjoying his job and the impact it has on the Seymour area.

Flanked by his wife Becky, David said he one day hopes to change the lives of students in his classroom. For now, he's more than happy making a difference in the Crossroads of America.

"I want to continue to give back to my community," Grider said.

David's dream is similar to that of Josh Peltier, a fellow scholarship winner who was worked for the State of Indiana for more than a decade.

Peltier's work with the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) is about as wide-ranging as a single job can be. He's worked in the prison system directly with inmates and recently transferred to maintenance. It's been a welcome change.

Like Grider, Joshua hopes to be a teacher someday, possibly working with people with special needs.

An Eagle Scout, Peltier volunteers as a coach in his community. He enjoys working with kids in those aspects and believes his "day job" at DOC has helped put some offenders back on the right path. In those ways, he's already making a difference. Studying at WGU can only make Peltier's future even brighter, and he's grateful for the financial

assistance helping make it all possible.

"I'm hugely relieved," Peltier, joined by his wife Michelle, said of the scholarship. "It makes things a little easier."

Words of encouragement

WGU Chancellor Allison Barber said the scholarship, which is among the largest ever offered by the university, was intended to do just that by removing some of the financial burden of going back to school.

With some financial concerns alleviated, the students can focus on their goals.

"We're trying to give Hoosiers a chance to achieve their dreams," Barber said. "The team and I got together and we said, 'how can we give more support and a shout-out to people who choose to work for our state?'"



INDOT highway technician David Grider hopes to take his career to 'the next level' by taking courses at WGU Indiana this fall. Gov. Eric Holcomb met with Grider and the nine other Public Service Recognition scholarship recipients. The governor encouraged the State of Indiana employees to continue pursuing their dreams.

The answer was the Public Service Recognition scholarship.

Gov. Holcomb said WGU students are helping the state's workforce, and he offered a "shout-out" of his own – heartfelt words of encouragement directly from the occupant of the highest elected office in the state.

"A lot of doors are going to be opened because of this next big step," the governor said. "It's truly inspirational and I'm fortunate to be on the same team. I'm proud of you all."

Learn more about the scholarship and the event by visiting https://indiana.wgu.edu/about_WGU_indiana/scholarships_state_employees_9-12-18.

Story and photos by Brent Brown, INSPD

2018 WGU Public Service Recognition Scholarship Winners

Diana Augustine (FSSA)

James Brackin (FSSA)

James Brewer (Indiana State Department of Health)

Joshua Galyan (FSSA)

David Grider (INDOT)

Amanda Hartman (DCS)

Tamara Havics (IDEM)

Brittany Mitchell (DCS)

Joshua Peltier (DOC)

Larry Upchurch (DWD)

Plan to get your flu shot in October

The best protection against the flu is to get a flu shot every year before the flu season starts. Since influenza viruses change over time, it is important to get a shot every year. Each year the vaccine is remade to include the types of flu virus expected to cause illness during that flu season. The vaccine begins to protect you within a few days after vaccination, but the vaccine is not fully effective until about 14 days after vaccination.



covered by State insurance, the flu vaccine is covered at 100 percent.

CVS is partnering with the State to offer flu shot clinics at many state facilities across Indiana. The on-site vaccination clinics are available to anyone 11 years of age and older. For employees and dependents

Don't forget to bring your [Anthem ID and waiver form](#) when attending a flu shot clinic. [Find a location near you](#) or attend a clinic at the South Government Center or Statehouse Atrium.

South Government Center

- Wednesday, October 10
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Conference Room B
- Thursday, October 11
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Conference Room B

Statehouse Atrium

- Wednesday, October 17
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

If you do not carry State employee insurance, you may still receive a flu shot at one of the clinics. The cost of the vaccine is \$40.99 if you are under the age of 65 and \$66.99 for those aged 65 and older. Payments can be made by check to CVS Pharmacy.

CERT training courses set for November

The Marion County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will hold basic training courses in November.

CERT is made up of volunteers who dedicate their time and talents to prepare the community for disaster. The team's mission is to provide skills needed to sustain residents until emergency professionals can help. It's "Hoosiers helping Hoosiers" while doing the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

The next course is from 6 to 10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 2, in IMPD East District Office, 201 N. Shadeland Ave., Indianapolis, IN.

Additional trainings in the same location are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 3 and Nov. 4.

Learn more at www.indy.gov/dhs.

Email at DHS@indy.gov or call 317-327-3900.

OE 2019

Benefits Open Enrollment

OCT. 24 - NOV. 14

Deadline is Wednesday,
Nov. 14 by noon EST

More information about Open Enrollment 2019 will be shared within the next few weeks. Subscribe to all of INSPD's communication channels to stay informed.

Publications: [The Torch](#) • [Around the Circle](#)
Social Media: [Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#)
Web: [SPD Benefits](#) • [Invest In Your Health](#)

Elections: FAQs & Myths Debunked

Election season is upon us once again, and the Secretary of State's office is here to help ensure you're ready come election day! This article addresses the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) surrounding general elections, so be sure to read carefully to make sure your vote counts this November!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What do I need to bring with me on Election Day in order to vote?

A: All you need to bring is a valid government-issued photo ID! It's a common misconception that people must bring more official documents such as your birth certificate or social security card, but those documents won't be necessary. As long as you have an identification card that contains your photo, you will be ready to vote!

Q: Does the address on my photo ID have to match the address on my voter registration?

A: Fortunately, you will not be turned away from the polls if the address on your photo ID does not match the address on your voter registration. However, we recommend making sure that your voter registration and identification card match! You may update your voter registration in minutes at www.indianavoters.com. If you need to update your photo ID to match the correct address, a quick trip to the BMV will help!

Q: If the addresses do not match, where do I vote?

A: You must vote at the precinct based on where you live. You may



always check to see where you are supposed to vote at www.indianavoters.com.

Q: If someone was recently released from being incarcerated, are they allowed to vote?

A: Yes! If a citizen of Indiana is not currently incarcerated, they are welcome to register to vote. They will be able to vote in the state of Indiana if they are registered by the registration deadline of October 9.

Q: When does someone need to turn 18 years old in order to vote?

A: If the voter is 18 by the date of the general election (November 6th), then they will be able to vote! They just need to make sure they are registered to vote by October 9.

Q: Where can I check my voter registration and verify my voting location?

A: All of this information is available at www.indianavoters.com or on the Indiana Voters mobile app. On the app or the website, you will also be able to update your voter registration in the case that any

information has changed since the last time you voted.

Now that we've covered some of the most common questions, let's talk about some myths surrounding elections. These ideas are **not true**, and we're here to explain why!

MYTHS DEBUNKED

Myth 1: If I can't make it to the polls on Election Day, I won't be able to vote.

FALSE. Not everyone is able to take time away from work or school in the middle of a Tuesday. Luckily state government has found answers for that! In Indiana, voters can utilize an absentee-by-mail ballot to send in their votes. Just keep in mind that the deadline for absentee-by-mail applications is October 29.

Myth 2: Midterm elections don't really matter anyway.

FALSE. Midterm elections are very important not only for local elections, but national elections as well! All 435 House of

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Elections: FAQs & Myths Debunked

Representative seats are up for re-election, as well as 33 of the 100 Senate seats. Additionally, 36 of the 50 state governors are up for election. Your vote this November will have a great impact on the future of American government.

Myth 3: My vote doesn't make a difference.

FALSE. This is one of the most common myths that comes up every election cycle, and is always NOT TRUE. Every vote matters. There have been many elections throughout history that have been decided by just a handful of votes. Democracies give every citizen their own voice, so use it!

Myth 4: Your voter registration automatically updates when you move.

FALSE. It can't be said enough – your voter registration is not automatically updated. It is up to you to make sure you are properly registered for this upcoming election! Visiting www.indianavoters.com and checking your registration takes only a few minutes. Make sure you are ready for the election on November 6!

Myth 5: If there is an issue with my registration on Election Day it will be impossible to cast my vote.

FALSE. Indiana has implemented “provisional ballots” that may be

used when a voter's registration is called into question. These provisional ballots are to be filled out by the voter and returned to their local county election official within a certain period of time. If everything checks out, their vote will be cast!

This article is an excerpt from the Indiana MoneyWise electronic magazine released this October. To see more articles from the e-mag follow this link <http://bit.ly/EMagNewstand>

Written by Nicholas J. Duffy, Executive Fellow, Indiana Secretary of State Office

Why you should come to INPRS Presents: Money Talks in Fort Wayne

You'll find simple ways to create more retirement income with Hoosier S.T.A.R.T.

Did you know that, as an INPRS member, you may be eligible to save more money for your retirement?

Want to learn more? Come to **INPRS Presents: Money Talks in Fort Wayne**. You'll learn how Hoosier S.T.A.R.T. works, how to enroll and how you can even get some extra money in your account, just for participating!

Join us for **INPRS Presents: Money Talks** from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 8 in room 1647 in the Coliseum Building at Ivy Tech Community College. Ivy Tech is located at 3800 N Anthony Blvd, Fort Wayne.



No matter where you are in your career, **INPRS Presents: Money Talks** has something for everyone. Hoosier S.T.A.R.T, along with other organizations, will be available to help you prepare for your retirement. Get future you to say “thank you” for saving.

To register

RSVP at <http://www.cvent.com/d/wbqmff>.

For more information

Contact Tamika Williams at twilliams3@inprs.in.gov.

Statewide fall fun, at the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites

It's officially fall! This autumn, the [Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites](#) has everything your family needs to get into the fall spirit. From beautiful leaf-viewing destinations to spooky nights out, it's time to grab your boots, throw on a cozy sweater and hit the road. Plus, make sure to bring your employee badge, because all Indiana state employees get \$2 off admission and a 10 percent gift shop discount at all locations with their valid state ID!

We've got your fall checklist covered – and we promise these are events and opportunities you won't want to miss.

Fall foliage? Check.

Nothing says fall like the bloom of gorgeous fall colors across the trees, and what better place to see the colors of autumn than Brown County?

This location is a destination for lovers of fall leaves, and [T.C. Steele State Historic Site](#) is the perfect place to take in the beauty so breathtaking it inspired Hoosier artist T.C. Steele himself. Just over an hour south of Indy, your family can visit the gardens for free, or take a tour with purchase of general admission.

If you're looking for more fall foliage photo ops, travel up north to [Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site](#) or [Limberlost State Historic Site](#). The sight of the leaves across gorgeous Sylvan Lake at Gene Stratton-Porter or in the

woods surrounding Limberlost isn't something you'll want to miss. Plus – admission to the grounds at Gene Stratton-Porter is free as well.

Hayride? Check.

It's not fall without a hayride – or a full-on Halloween festival.

At [Angel Mounds State Historic Site](#), attend the Halloween Hullabaloo on Oct. 20 and 27 for just \$5 per person, where you can take a haunted hayride and enjoy games and crafts, as well as see if you can escape the Mummy's curse in "The Tomb." Visitors are invited to dress in costume and collect candy in trick-or-treat bags throughout the night.

PS: You can also take a haunted hayride at [Vincennes State Historic Sites](#) during Fort Fright.



Costume contest? Check.

For some, fall is all about Halloween – and the costumes. On Oct. 5, strut your ghoulish stuff in a costume contest during Family Fright Night at the [Indiana State Museum](#). During this night of spooky fun, you can compete in a costume contest, conduct spooky science experiments, create your own monster mask and more. Admission for this event is just \$10 for members, \$16 for non-members, and free for children age 3 and younger.

Haunted house? Check.

Most haunted houses may be fake, but we'll do you one better with "Literally, A Haunted House" at [Culbertson Mansion State Historic Site](#). Here, visitors have been scared since 1985 as they explore the haunted Carriage House of Culbertson Mansion. After the mansion was auctioned off years ago, it fell into disuse, and dark legends abound concerning tragic fires, spiritual activity and even demonic possession. This haunted house is not for the faint of heart, and it's recommended for attendees age 10 and older – if they dare.

Or, in a twist on the usual haunted house, visit Fort Fright at [Vincennes State Historic Sites](#), where visitors of all ages can explore the haunted trail around Fort Knox II. During no-scare hours, visitors can enjoy games, a hayride and more. But, once the spookier hours hit, be prepared to test

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Statewide fall fun, at the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites

your courage with dramatic scare scenes around the fort.



Spooky stories? Check.

Maybe a haunted house just isn't your scene – and that's okay! Instead, enjoy two spooky story programs at two of our locations, with tons of Halloween fun for the entire family.

[Limerlost State Historic Site](#) will offer spooky stories in a special program on Oct. 20 at the Loblolly Marsh, where visitors can enjoy Halloween-themed stories, along with roasting marshmallows and taking a night hike through the marsh.

At [Whitewater Canal State Historic Site](#) on Oct. 13 and 20, visitors can take a Halloween-themed boat ride on the canal while hearing family-friendly spooky stories from a professional storyteller, all in conjunction with the Haunted Village of Metamora.

Ghost walk? Check.

For die-hard Halloween lovers, several of our events take the spookiness to the next level, by featuring haunted happenings about real historical events – or even, possibly, real spirits.

You can investigate the paranormal for yourself at [New Harmony State Historic Site](#) during after-hours tours where you can use

real paranormal equipment. Or, take a ghost walk at [Corydon State Historic Site](#). Staff will tell you about their own supernatural encounters and take you on a tour to the alleged haunts throughout the town.

Fall-themed date night? Check.

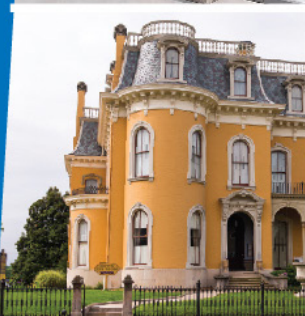
Adults need fall fun, too – and we have two date nights perfect for a fall night out.

"The Dark Parlour" at [Culbertson Mansion State Historic Site](#) is sure to entertain, with an evening of "spirit theatre" that will make you question what you see – and what you believe. This event is open to all ages, and cocktails are available for purchase for those 21 and older.

Another spooky event at [T.C. Steele State Historic Site](#) will explore the Victorian fascination with ghosts and spiritualism, as well as include a magic show. Plus, enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, as well as a twilight stroll through Steele's studio and home.



DID YOU KNOW?
State employees receive
\$2 OFF
admission to the Indiana
State Museum and ALL
11 State Historic Sites!



Upgrade to a Real ID at BMV Mobile Branch

As of Oct. 1, 2020, all Hoosiers must have a Real ID to board a commercial flight or enter certain federal facilities.

State employees can now upgrade to a Real ID at the BMV's mobile branch located in the Indiana Government Center South Conference Center this month.

Please visit [IN.Gov/BMV](https://www.in.gov/bmv) to schedule an appointment and select "ROOM 6 OCTOBER 10-11". Walk-in customers are welcome on a first-come, first-serve basis with limited availability.

- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Wednesday, October 10
Conference Room 6
- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Thursday, October 11
Conference Room 6

Please bring all required documentation to prove your identity, Social Security number,



Indiana residency and lawful status. Also, if you have had a name change, additional documentation is required (marriage license, divorce decree or court order).

Required Documents:

Identity documents include (one document required):

- Unexpired U.S. Passport or Passport card
- Original or certified copy of a birth certificate

Lawful status documents include

(one document required):

- Certificate of citizenship
- Certificate of naturalization
- Unexpired permanent resident card

Social Security documents include (one document required):

- Social Security card
- W-2 form
- Pay stub containing name and Social Security number

Indiana residency documents include (at least two documents are required):

- U.S. Postal Service change of address confirmation
- Indiana voter registration card
- Utility company, credit card, doctor or hospital bill issued within the last 60 days

Don't get grounded – upgrade to a Real ID before the 2020 deadline.

Visit [RealID.in.gov](https://www.RealID.in.gov) for an Interactive Documents Guide of required documentation.

Red Gold 'Run to Crush Hunger'

Registration for the seventh annual Red Gold 'Run to Crush Hunger' is now open! This year's event gets running at 8 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 13, at St. Joseph Center in Elwood.

Race times: 10K – 9:30 a.m., 5K – 9:45 a.m., 1 mile – 10 a.m.

If you can't make it the day of the race, sign up to be a "virtual runner" and support the cause wherever you are!

As an added bonus, State of Indiana employees receive a 15

percent discount on registration fees using code **Indiana18**.

The 'Run to Crush Hunger' is making a difference in food insecurity in The Hoosier State. Each runner helps feed approximately 120 families!

Prizes are available to top finishers and every participant takes home the event's "ultimate performance: long-sleeve t-shirt and custom finisher medal.

[Click here to learn more!](#)



Artwork by
Jerry Williams

Genealogy and Local History Fair returns to Indiana State Library in October



INDIANAPOLIS -- The Indiana State Library will host the Indiana Genealogy and Local History Fair from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 27, in downtown Indianapolis.

Admission is free and the event is open to the general public. This year's theme is "Digging Up the Dead." Attendees will learn to how to examine, decipher and interpret death records and death research. They'll also discover other interesting facets of mortality in history.

More than 30 organizations and exhibitors will be in attendance. Visit the tables in the exhibition hall to collect information from genealogical and local history organizations and to shop the commercial vendors.

Highly-acclaimed, internationally-known speakers and genealogy consultants, Lisa Alzo and Amie Bowser Tennant, will offer presentations.

Additionally, Sarah Halter, executive director of the Indiana Medical History Museum, will give a "brown bag lunch" lecture.

Information about the presenters may be found [here](#).

The Indiana State Library is located at 315 W. Ohio St. in Indianapolis.

2018 Employee Assistance Program wellness webinar calendar



View the webinars on demand — anytime, anywhere. Submit a question and receive a response via email. Questions are logged in a FAQ section so you have the ability to browse and learn from the questions of others.

	Monthly theme	Monthly webinar title	Webinar description Join us for these introductory webinars on work-life topics.
SEP	GPS! Charting a course to reach your goals	Creating a Personal Development Plan Available on demand starting Sep 18	Participate in this session to understand effective goal setting and identify potential obstacles that can create barriers to reaching your goals.
OCT	Bounce back Recovering from stressful situations	A Personal Guide to Building Resiliency and Coping With Change Available on demand starting Oct 16	It's not what happens to us but how we respond to what is happening to us. This seminar will empower you to become more resilient.
NOV	Talking together Family conversations about aging	Caring for Aging Relatives Available on demand starting Nov 20	Older relatives may require more care than family or neighbors can provide. This seminar is a helpful first step to determine what kind of care is needed.
DEC	Just ask Asking for what you need	Say What You Mean the Right Way: Healthy Forms of Communication Available on demand starting Dec 18	There are many ways to communicate how you feel to the people in your life. Explore how you can use communication to strengthen your relationships.

To view a seminar on demand go to anthemeap.com and enter **State of Indiana**
You'll find these and other seminars in the **Seminars Center** that rotates in the middle of the page.

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