

School of Information Sciences

Press Release

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iSchool Inclusion Institute (i3) to begin June 5, 2011

The School of Information Sciences (iSchool) at the University of Pittsburgh is pleased to announce that the inaugural iSchool Inclusion Institute (i3) will take place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from June 6-30, 2011. The i3 project is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and is designed to encourage undergraduate students from underrepresented groups to consider graduate study – and perhaps, joining the professoriate -- in the Information Sciences disciplines.

i3 seeks to identify promising undergraduate students and help them to explore the Information Field through a series of events and projects. Accepted students will attend a four-week summer institute in Year One; participate in a year-long research project; and come back for a two-week concluding institute in Year Two. All courses and workshops will be taught by a team of iSchool faculty, doctoral students, and professionals. The year-long research project will be mentored by a team of faculty and staff from iSchools across the United States. A complete description of the i3 program and the 2011 Institutes is available at www.ischool-inclusion.org.

These i3 Scholars will learn about the educational and research opportunities available at each of the iSchools – an international coalition of Information Schools dedicated to advancing the information field in the 21st Century. While each individual iSchool has its own strengths and specializations, together they share a fundamental interest in the relationships between information, people, and technology. The 31-member international organization is governed by the iCaucus. More information about the iCaucus and its members can be found at www.ischools.org/.

The i3 program has accepted 21 students to participate in the first month-long session to be held at the University of Pittsburgh. For 2011, the i3 received 48 applications from undergraduate students enrolled in 31 colleges and universities, in 20 different states and U.S. territories. The selected i3 scholars (12 female and 9 male) are from 18 different colleges and universities in 14 states; have an average GPA of 3.192; and are earning undergraduate degrees in such diverse disciplines as Information Technology, Journalism, Business Administration, English Literature, Engineering, Public Health, Sociology, Media Communications, Marketing, and Computer Science.

While here, the Scholars will participate in more than 50 workshops and seminars on the theoretical foundations and practical applications of developments in the Information Sciences, the critical knowledge and skills for success both in the Information Professions and in graduate school, and the depth and breadth of research projects taking place in the field. Matching the diversity of the Information Field and the iSchools, the program calls for workshops on topics ranging from “Cave Paintings to Cloud Computing: 30,000 Years of Information Use” to “Crowdsourcing and Open Innovation: How Wikipedia changes everything (without changing anything)” and “Privacy in the Digital Age.”

In addition to a myriad of academic and professional development learning opportunities, the i3 will bring in speakers and lecturers specifically for the Institute – this will provide an outsider’s view of the needs of society, business, and individuals for those who will create and manage the flow of information in the future. For the 2011 Institute, the list of speakers includes:

Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at 5:30PM, Kurtzman Room, William Pitt Union, University of Pittsburgh

Keynote Address: Farai Chideya, Author, journalist, and political pundit

Farai Chideya has combined media, technology, and social justice during her 20-year career as an award-winning author and journalist. From 2006 to early 2009, she hosted NPR's *News and Notes*, a daily national program about African-American and African diaspora issues. She and the teams she has worked with have won numerous awards including a National Education Reporting Award, a North Star News Prize, and a special award from the National Gay and Lesbian Journalists Association for coverage of AIDS. She has written three nonfiction books: **Trust: Reaching the 100 Million Missing Voters**; **The Color of Our Future**; and **Don't Believe the Hype: Fighting Cultural Misinformation About African Americans**. Chideya is also the founder of *PopandPolitics.com*, an online journal for 18-29 year olds. *Pop and Politics* also functions as a multimedia journalism learning lab that trains students for the hottest genre of careers in journalism.

Monday, June 13, 2011 at 12:00PM, Dining Room A, William Pitt Union, University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Paul Hawkins, CEO & President, Western Pennsylvania Diversity Initiative

The Western Pennsylvania Diversity Initiative's stated mission is to promote regional economic growth by providing resources to employers in the Pittsburgh region to attract, hire and retain employees from a variety of diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Toward that end, it has hosted conferences and seminars on diversity, as well as networking events.

Monday, June 20, 2011 at 3:30PM, Room 527, William Pitt Union, University of Pittsburgh

Robert Jordan, Principal Systems Architect, ARINC

A graduate of the Master's program in Telecommunications at the iSchool at Pitt, Jordan is a highly-experienced IT Business Development executive and Principal Solutions Architect who has demonstrated his ability to lead technical teams of professionals to new levels of success in a variety of technology industries and fast-paced environments. He has built a 19-year track record in hands-on experience including Information assurance planning, risk analysis, strategic and tactical planning, business development, sales, product development and delivery, network engineering, systems architecture and customer service. He currently serves as the Principal Systems Architect with ARINC, the premier provider of communications, engineering, and integration solutions to customers in the defense, commercial, and government industries.

Wednesday, June 29, 2011 at 6:00PM, Lower Lounge, William Pitt Union, University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Kathy Humphrey, Vice Provost and Dean of Student Affairs, University of Pittsburgh

Kathy Humphrey is Vice Provost and Dean of Students at the University of Pittsburgh. She earned a B.S. in Education at Central Missouri State University, a M.A. in Higher Education Administration at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration at Saint Louis University. For the past 20 years, Dr. Humphrey has held progressive leadership positions in higher education. In addition to her role as the Vice Provost and Dean of Students, Dr. Humphrey has a faculty appointment in the School of Education. Her primary research area is focused on helping traditional-age college students find their purpose.

In 2009 and 2010, the School of Information Sciences at Pitt partnered with iSchools at Drexel and the Pennsylvania State University to design and develop the i3 project. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has graciously supported these efforts through two significant grants, totaling \$700,000 over a four-year period. The iSchools will host additional i3 Scholar cohorts in 2012 and 2013.

Like many disciplines, the Information Sciences have suffered from a lack of diversity in the student population and the faculty. The i3 project was developed to address this shortfall, which severely limits the perspectives and the academic vitality and rigor of the discipline. By exposing promising students to a discipline that actively wants to foster their success, i3 plans to increase the number of men and women from underrepresented populations undertaking graduate study in the field. In so doing, schools will create faculty members who reflect the diversity of the overall population - and who can serve as role models for future generations.

For more information about the i3 project and the 2011 Institutes, please visit www.ischool-inclusion.org.