

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello INAIR Colleagues,

I hope this newsletter finds you, your families, and your colleagues safe and well. The past year and a half have been a challenging time for many of us at our respective institutions. Some of you may have experienced additional data needs, adjusting to unusual swings in enrollment from year to year, extended remote working situations, etc. These times have been challenging from the perspective of INAIR as well. Over the past few months, the members of the INAIR board have been discussing and debating exactly what the future looks like for our annual INAIR conference. Last year was the first time we held the conference in a remote setting and the feedback suggests that many of us do miss being in person. However, with looming uncertainty concerning the next six months, some institutions cutting travel budgets, and the need to have at least 100 people attend in person to break even; the board has made the decision to hold the INAIR conference once again in a virtual environment. Just as with last year's conference, we are planning on making the conference free with the purchase of your annual INAIR membership.



Your INAIR Board has been discussing options for some type of face to face (mask to mask) meet-up in Indianapolis before the end of the academic year; be sure to read the update from our Vice President and Conference Planning Committee. We are also planning ways to keep us all connected throughout the year. This newsletter will be a regular source of updates, as always. I will carry the torch that Sharon lit last year by continuing the **INAIR "Friday Forums" Series** to allow members to share ideas and best practices around current topics. Currently we have our first Friday Forum scheduled in just a couple of weeks. for this year scheduled for **November 12th at 9:00 am EST.**

- 11/12/21 9:00 am EST: "How it Started – How it's Going" – Current state of IR and how offices are adapting to the New Normal of virtual offices and remote employees.
- December Forum: TBD

If you have any ideas for forum topics or are interested in moderating or participating in a session, please reach out to me (jm805@evansville.edu). If you have additional ideas on how INAIR can serve our members in the coming months, your Board is eager to hear them any time. Be thinking ahead to those great conference proposals as well as ways you might consider serving INAIR in the future! INAIR is stronger and can have the biggest impact when we benefit from the involvement of diverse members from across the state.

Take Care,
Jordan Mays
INAIR President

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Update From VP & Conference Chair

Brooke Kile

2022 INAIR Annual Conference Going Virtual Again!

Save-the-date the mornings of **Thursday, March 24 and Friday, March 25, 2022** for our 36th INAIR Annual Conference.

Our committee spent considerable time weighing this decision but felt this was the best option for our members considering the ambiguity of institutional travel/conference budgets, return to work plans, and the current health/safety protocols in place at this time.

The good news:

- We anticipate using the same conference platform, WHOVA, so you will not need to download new software or learn a new platform
- We are looking into the feasibility of offering an in-person component tied to a Friday Forum or Conference Cocktail Reception
- If we can secure the right combination of vendor sponsors, we can again offer the conference at no cost to INAIR members



Help Us Secure Vendor Sponsors

Vendor Sponsors are an important component of the INAIR Conference as this allows us to keep the cost low (or free!) to our INAIR members. This year, we would like to try leveraging our membership interest in vendor solutions to offer and secure different sponsorship levels that can cover costs related to the online conference platform, a possible in-person component, and purchasing awards for best presentations and conference papers.

Please help us leverage our vendor contacts by completing a brief survey by November 15.

**Conference Planning Wants to
Hear from You by Nov 15!**

https://marian.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0vc4BRE1stveBSe

In-Person Component to Conference

We heard your feedback from last year's conference that many of you are interested in reconnecting with colleagues in-person. The INAIR Conference Committee is actively looking for ways to offer an in-person component to the conference or as part of a Friday Forum.

We've embedded a couple of questions in the Vendor survey above to gauge membership interest in one of these options. Please help us offer an experience that works best for our membership completing this survey by November 15. If you have questions or concerns or general feedback, please feel free to reach out to me at bkile@marian.edu

National Survey of IR Offices

The Value of Participating and Using the Data for IR Directors

Brooke Kile, Marian University

The [2021 AIR National Survey of IR Offices](#) is now open through December 10. You can view your institutional survey contact on the [AIR IR Survey website](#) and update it to reflect a new office leader, if appropriate.

What Information Will I Report?

For the 2018 Survey collection period, institutional leaders were asked to provide or confirm information about:

- ✓ Their institution's profile (sector, region, control, location, etc.)
- ✓ Office structure (stand alone IR, combined with other office such as Assessment or Effectiveness)
- ✓ Percentage of workload dedicated to various activities (reporting, decision support, assessment, etc.) and information production estimates
- ✓ Office leader background (education, years of experience)
- ✓ Office environment and institutional culture (resources dedicated to office, perceptions of relationships and influence across campus, campus data culture) as well as key stakeholders
- ✓ Office staffing size, compensation and budget/fiscal resources

How Long Will the Survey Take to Complete?

When I completed the survey for our office in 2018 as a new IR Director, it took me about 2-3 hours. The information production estimates were the hardest to calculate. Most of the other information was relatively easy to assemble and report.

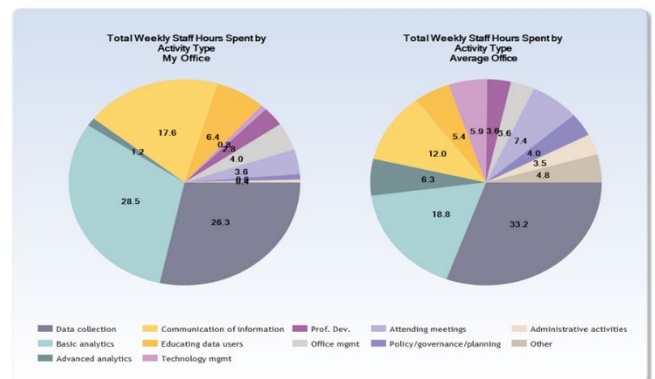
How Did You Use the Information from the Survey?

Once I submitted our 2018 institution's survey, AIR made benchmarking reports available based on customizable peer groups. I used this information to:

1) *Assess what activities our office was not completing* versus activities being completed at most of our peer benchmarking group. I identified that our office was not involved in two key activities (strategic plan monitoring and student learning outcomes) which led me to begin conversations about how our office could play a larger role in those activities.

2) *Understand professional development spending* by our peers to establish an annual professional development spending plan with our Provost backed by peer group data.

3) *Compare our weekly activities to other offices* to see where we spent our time compared to other offices. One key finding I discovered was that in all of our peer groups we spent less time on advanced analytics. Over the last two years I've been actively searching for ways to do more of this type of analysis and getting more resources to do it. A sample from one of our peer groups is shown below from the delivered benchmarking report



Beginning in March 2022 AIR will release final reports of data (including longitudinal analysis). This last year AIR gave several presentations by sector group to share 2018 findings within the larger context of higher education and the individual sectors. I found this information very valuable as I prepare our office for what is coming ahead in the next few years. I hope many of you will opt to participate—it would be great to be able to benchmark off our membership institution group for the coming year.

Upcoming Events

Monday, November TBA, 2021	Call for Proposal Opens Soon
Friday, Nov 12 @ 9 am EST	Friday Forum: How it Started – How it’s Going Zoom Link: https://evansville-edu.zoom.us/j/98994219963?pwd=c2twYWZEMVNyOVl1S1gySzl0MVZqUT09
Monday, November 15, 2021	<u>NEAIR 2nd Virtual Annual Conference</u>
Friday, December 2021	Friday Forum: TBD
March 24 – 25, 2022	36th Annual INAIR Virtual Conference
June 6 – 9 , 2022	<u>2022 AIR Forum @ Phoenix, AZ</u>

If you have good news to share or would like to propose a topic to be featured in the next issue, please send ideas to Amy Ribera, INAIR Secretary, at akribera@iu.edu