

Keynote Speaker 9:00-9:50 AM Sycamore Banquet Center

Fireside Chat with Mayor Brandon Sakbun

This Fireside Chat will explore the role of local government in protecting and advancing human rights, fostering equity, and addressing community challenges. Mayor Brandon Sakbun will share insights on civic leadership, policy initiatives, and the ways in which communities can work together to create a more inclusive and just society. Moderated by Terre Haute Human Relations Commission Director, Anne-Therese Ryan, the conversation will feature a mix of structured discussion and an open audience Q&A, providing an opportunity for meaningful dialogue about the impact of human rights at the local level.

Students, faculty, and community members are encouraged to take part in this engaging discussion and contribute to the ongoing work of building a more equitable future.

Session I 10:00-10:50 AM

Kristine Bunch Sycamore Banquet Center

The presentation will include a focus on the case of Kristine Bunch v. State of Indiana. Kristine Bunch spent 17 years in an Indiana prison for arson and the resulting death of her 3 -year-old child. She was exonerated after proving the government hid evidence of her innocence, and the fire had been electrical in origin, not the result of the use of an accelerant. Kristine Bunch is willing to share her tragic story in order to open the prison doors for others and create paths for reform.

Kristine Bunch is the Vice President and Treasurer for the Indiana Innocence Project. After being wrongfully convicted in the death of her three-year-old son Anthony in 1996, Kristine Bunch spent more than 17 years behind bars before she was finally exonerated. While incarcerated, she earned her undergraduate degree from Ball State University in English and Anthropology. Now, she is an advocate for the wrongfully convicted and the exonerated alike. Recognizing the profound challenges that accompany exoneration, Kristine has dedicated herself to easing the burdens of fellow exonerees, tirelessly working to provide them with access to essential resources and support networks vital for rebuilding their lives. Through her unwavering

Saving Lives by Avoiding Fast Fashion: A Guide to Choosing Quality and Sustainable Clothing

Sara Baldwin Dede I

This presentation explores the environmental and ethical impacts of fast fashion, highlighting the hidden consequences of certain fibers and dyes. Students will learn how to decode clothing labels, distinguish genuine sustainability certifications from greenwashing, and assess garment quality for durability. Through hands-on inspection of clothing items, they will gain practical skills to make more informed, responsible purchasing decisions.

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Sara Baldwin is the owner of Lux & Ivy, a sustainable apparel and accessory brand that has focused on secondhand fashion and locally made goods for more than a decade. Lux & Ivy is located inside the Factory Arts District in downtown Indianapolis.

Stewardship of Public Lands and Invasive Species

Zoe Newbold

Dede II

This session will cover what an invasive species is, where they come from, and some examples of invasive species you may see on properties around town. There will be a section on why people should care about invasive species and how they affect the public. This session will briefly touch on environmental justice issues that come along with the growing invasive population. The speaker will also discuss what the average person can do to help with this issue and some careers in the conservation field.

Zoe Newbold is the Steward of Public Lands at the ISU Office of Sustainability. She is in her sophomore year getting a bachelor's degree in environmental geoscience. Zoe is also the Vice President of Land Stewardship with Ouabache Land Conservancy and volunteers with Vigo Invasives Management.

Protecting Civil Rights in Indiana: An ACLU of Indiana Presentation

Danielle Drake

Dede III

Join the ACLU of Indiana for an informative presentation on the state of civil rights in Indiana. This session will cover key issues affecting our communities, including free speech, voting rights, racial justice, LGBTQ+ equality, and the impact of recent legislative developments. Learn about ongoing advocacy efforts and discover ways you can take action to protect and expand civil liberties in our state.

Session II 11:00-11:50 PM

Indiana Innocence Project

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Kristine Bunch and Fran Watson will provide a narrative of the innocence movement nationally and in Indiana, beginning with the advent of DNA technology, the growth of law school clinics, including the Innocence Project, and the creation of the Innocence Network, the present affiliation of organizations dedicated to representation and change.

Fran Watson is a Clinical Professor of Law Emerita at IU McKinney School of Law, where she directed the Wrongful Conviction Clinic, a founding member of the Innocence Network. Fran Watson and students in the clinic represented six exonerated clients and freed another. Partnering with the IU Bloomington criminal justice and law schools and the Herbert Simon Family Foundation, Fran Watson helped create the Indiana Innocence Project in 2024, an independent not-for-profit organization dedicated to exonerating the innocent in Indiana prisons. Fran Watson was recognized in 2023, by the American Inn of Court, for professional excellence. She also received recognition for her dedication to clinical education for public defenders with four teaching awards, the Indy-Bar Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Public Defender Council Spirit of Justice Award. She is a native of Jeffersonville, Indiana, and a graduate of Ball State University.

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What is Human Trafficking?

April Holloway Dede I

An introduction to human trafficking, definition and types of trafficking, how it affects the Wabash Valley, What is our community doing to increase awareness to help end human trafficking?

April Holloway is the Vice President of the Wabash Coalition Against Trafficking. She is a lifelong resident of the Wabash Valley and a retired nurse. She spent her career working in the healthcare industry where she served in a variety of roles from care giver to leadership positions.

Food Insecurity

Jessica Murphy Dede II

While a worldwide issue, food insecurity impacts thousands of people right here in our community. One of the most basic level human rights is the right to have access to enough fresh and nutritious food to live a healthy, active lifestyle. Learn what food insecurity is, how it impacts our local community and what is being done to combat the problem. Most importantly, learn what you can do to join the fight.

Jessica Murphy, an Indiana State University alum, is the current Development Manager and Lead Fundraiser for Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank. In her six years with the organization, she has worked to reinforce their mission of nourishing the minds, bodies and spirits of our neighbors throughout the community.

The Economics of Us and Them: Wealth Inequality in the U.S.

Katrina Babb Dede III

This session will engage participants in a hands-on learning activity designed to illuminate the stark disparities in wealth distribution. This interactive exercise is designed to foster a deeper understanding of economic stratification and the underlying factors. Participants will gain insights into the causes and consequences of wealth inequality, equipping them to think critically about potential solutions and economic policies aimed at fostering a more equitable society.

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Katrina Babb is a Senior Instructor of Economics and Director of the Center for Economic Education. She has been teaching for 20 years and is passionate about experiential learning.

Session III 1:00-1:50 PM

Everything is Connected-How Agriculture Impacts all Culture

John Michael Elmore

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The session will touch on the history of agriculture, its current state, and the movement back to small, sustainable farms that grow for a local market. It will show the impact that agriculture has had on history, both good and bad. It will make a case for fresh, clean, local food being integral for human well-being, dignity, and a more equitable and hopeful future.

John-Michael Elmore is the Farm Manager at White Violet Center for Eco-Justice. He's worked in sustainable farming for the better part of a decade. Prior to farming, he worked in the banking industry. John-Michael has a bachelor's degree in economics from Indiana State University.

Stages of Awareness of Human Rights

Laura Burdick

Dede I

Throughout her life, she has engaged on the topic of human rights in different ways. She has spent years being an advocate, a learner, and someone who engaged with research around human rights. And then the question of human rights and how it applied to me specifically was in the forefront. Throughout life it shows up differently for different people. From your position, how can you be most effective?

Laura graduated from TH North High School, Notre Dame with a degree in Biology, followed by a Masters in Public Health from St. Louis University. Her focus was epidemiology and behavioral sciences. Laura always had a fascination with why people make the decisions that they make about their health. Putting her skills into action, she forged a career in Indianapolis as general manager of a growing hot yoga and Pilates studio, The Hot Room, as well as a business owner of her own health coaching business, Stride10 Coaching. She worked with individuals on achieving their best health. Additionally, she had corporate contracts where she helped businesses host their own employee wellness programs.

In May 2020, Laura was in a devastating car accident. She was hit by a drunk driver and suffered a spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury. With intensive physical therapy, Laura's brain started to heal. She was able to focus her efforts and attention on physical and occupational therapy to improve her physical state as much as possible. After about 13 months of focus on physical therapy, Laura returned home. She continues to reach out to others about improving their own health as she sets

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health goals for herself. Her work carries on with a spin of everything she has learned through her trials.

Legislative Advocacy 101

Emily TeKolste

Dede II

Though they are rights granted by birth, human rights need to be protected. Governments and laws, at their best, exist to ensure that people's rights are protected. But this is not always the case. In a democracy, citizens must act to ensure laws protect and uphold human rights. In this session, you'll get an overview of how to participate in the legislative advocacy through organizing your community, meeting with your representatives, and educating yourself, others, and your legislators.

Emily TeKolste is a Sister of Providence and works full-time as an organizer at NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, educating and activating citizens in six states to take action to influence their legislators and educate their communities.

Session IV 2:00-2:50 PM

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