

INTERVARSITY®

Dear Witnessing Communities Track Participants,

We think you're changing the world.

We're here because we believe that God is changing universities and colleges throughout Illinois and Indiana through students like you. And we agree with the former UN General Secretary when he said that if you "change the University, you change the world."

We're so glad that you will be joining us at Winterfest 2012. Throughout scripture, we see that God's mission goes forward because of the unique work of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes, he sends clearly supernatural signs, like Paul's dream of the Macedonian man in Acts 16. At other times, however, he uses reason and practical strategies to direct his mission. Paul explains in Romans 15, for example, that he hasn't visited the Christians in Rome because he prioritizes traveling to places where there is no Christian witness. Like Paul, we want to be guided by God's spirit, as he works through signs and strategies on our campuses.

In this track, we're going to listen to God in prayer, and think through strategies for mission on campus. You already have some of the basic skills needed to share your faith and be a personal witness for Jesus on campus. This track will equip you as an influencer in your chapter by looking at your campus through the eyes of mission, and providing some practical training in how to carry out that mission.

We've given you a pre-course assignment that will prepare you for the weekend. Please work through it before coming on Friday. In fact, this could be a group project and you can work with others from your chapter or campus in this track. I think you will find it an exciting assignment.

We're praying for you and for our time together. Please email me if you have any questions before the track.

Lauren Dueck
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Witnessing Communities: Our Mission on Campus

Winterfest 2012 Pre-course Assignment

A closer look at your campus

Print out a campus map from your college's website. Grab red, blue and green markers or colored pencils.

1. Go to your school's website and find demographic information. (Enrollment, ethnic minority percentages, international student percentages, average age, anything else you can find.) Write these on the back of the map.
2. On the map, circle the top five "traffic hotspots" in red. That is, where on campus do the most students go? What are the busiest places on campus? Where do students hang out? Where do different ethnic groups hang out?
3. Off to the side, list the top five groups (in terms of members, activities or influence). These can be either student organizations or other groups that make a mark on campus.
4. On the map, mark InterVarsity's presence on campus. Put an "X" in blue on places where small groups, large group, or any other IV activities meet.
5. On the map, mark other Christian groups' presence in the same way as #4 in green. (This one might be more difficult if you have a large campus with many Christian groups. Do what you can.)

A closer look at students on campus

Interview two students on campus who are not part of a Christian ministry. They can be friends or strangers. It might be interesting to interview people who have visited IV but who are not currently involved in any Christian community. You might also consider doing video interviews. This is a fun way of interviewing people. Once you do them, send Lauren an email (lauren_dueck@ivstaff.org) and we might use your interviews in the track.

Here are some potential questions. Feel free to use your own words with these questions. Jot down notes (during or afterward) so that you can remember people's responses.

1. What do you think drives students on this campus? What is most important to people? What do students talk about the most?
2. What is distinctive about this campus? What makes this campus different than other campuses in terms of atmosphere, feel, etc?
3. What do you feel are some of the needs on campus? What hard things do you think students are going through?
4. What is your perception of Christian groups on campus in general? Are they serving the campus well and following the ways of Jesus?
5. Have you heard of InterVarsity? What is your perception of InterVarsity on campus?