



INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
NORTHWEST

**Board of Advisors' Meeting**

February 10, 2021

**Future Meeting Dates** (*all meetings are 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.*)

- May 5, 2021 (virtual or in-person TBD)
- September 8, 2021 (virtual or in-person TBD)
- November 10, 2021 (virtual or in-person TBD)

**Faculty Presentations** ([view PowerPoint slides here](#))

Professor [Dr. Erin Argyilan](#), Geosciences Department

- Mt. Baldy is a historic feature, not a geologic feature, that has been formed from erosion of sand being pushed onto the shore. Trees that are buried by the marching sand dune, when exposed, fall apart in your hands. Dr. Argyilan's research showed that the buried trees were covered in fungi, which aided in their decomposition. The decaying trees, beneath the sand, is the primary cause of these holes. Dr. Argyilan pioneered a new model of a previously unknown geological hazard called a "dune decomposition chimney."
- Her discovery is the result of research into why six-year old [Nathan Woessner fell into a hole on Mt. Baldy](#) in 2013. Researchers dismissed her idea that buried trees could sustain cavities in dunes following decay.
- Her ground-breaking study was published by [Aeolian Research](#), the field's pre-eminent journal, and by [Smithsonian Magazine](#), among many other local and national media outlets.

Assistant Professor [Dr. Jen Fisher](#), Department of Biology

- Dr. Fisher is an environmental microbiologist. She studies, researches and evaluates the bacteria found in urban aquatic areas, like rivers, lakes and streams. Her research involves sampling untreated sewage and water samples, in coordination with a septic system work group, composed of local health departments, parks services, and an estimated 30,000 septic systems. Her research indicates septic pollution hotspots in local waterways.
- Dr. Fisher works collectively with IU Northwest students, involving them in research projects most often reserved for graduate-level students.
- Her research was recently covered by IU Northwest in December 2020: [Making Discoveries and Creating Opportunities in Dr. Fisher's Research Lab](#).
- Over the last few years, Drs. Argyilan and Fisher have been sharing their findings with each other, in a cross-disciplinary, synergist approach where geology and biology meet for the benefit of the environment and health/safety of humans, animals and plant life. Ongoing, multi-year collaborative projects, like those by Drs. Argyilan and Fisher, help to harness IU Northwest expertise and student learning outcomes.

## Chancellor Update

- Kathy Malone retired in December 2020. We will miss her, and thank her for her many years of service to IU Northwest, and specifically to the IU Northwest BOA.
- Enrollment
  - The spring 2021 semester census showed our overall enrollment standing at 3,467 students and 39,469 total credit hours. A few highlights:
    - Enrollment of degree-seeking, underrepresented students of color stayed nearly the same year-over-year, now reflecting a record share of 45.9 percent.
    - Non-resident enrollment has continued to trend upward, resulting in a new record of 130 degree-seeking students, an increase of 15 percent.
    - And, degree-seeking students aged 25+ has increased, with a gain of 20 additional students.
  - However, these numbers represent a dip of 1.8 percent in the number of students, and 1.6 percent in the number of total credit hours, when compared against spring 2020. All higher education institutions are facing great challenges in recruiting and retaining students. IU Northwest is engaging students in new, innovative ways to encourage enrollment and persistence to degree attainment.
- Academic Media Production (AMP) Space
  - In January, IU Northwest held a virtual ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the Academic Media Production (AMP) Space. Serving as an innovation hub for our campus, this new state-of-the-art creative and technology space helps faculty develop engaging, high-quality instruction that brings their lessons to life in impactful, memorable ways. [View Academic Media Production Space ribbon-cutting video.](#)
- Additional Items
  - Budget planning process is currently underway.
  - IU Presidential Search is currently underway, with in-person interviews to be conducted in February. This is a closed, confidential search.
  - Spring 2021 Commencement will be held in-person for IU Northwest 2020 and 2021 graduates on May 13, 2021. Due to COVID-19 and physical distancing recommendations, the ceremony will only be open to the graduates. [Click here to learn more.](#)

## Board Membership

- There are currently four vacancies on the IU Northwest BOA. Please share your recommendations with [Amy Diaz](#).

## Board of Advisors Committee Updates

- Experiential Learning & Internships Committee
  - Committee is currently evaluating its purpose and working to further align the committee's strategies with the Chancellor's strategic plan.
- Philanthropy Committee & Campaign Update
  - IU entered into a new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020. All BOA members are encouraged to make their annual donation to the IU Northwest campus.
  - The BOA Leadership Program continues to evolve. More details forthcoming.
- Board Social & Cultural Engagement Committee
  - No update.

## Future Meeting Presentation/Topics of Interest

- Please share future meeting presentation and topics of interests with [Amy Diaz](#).