

EPICS in Indianapolis

OVERVIEW

As Purdue Indianapolis was scheduled to open in Fall of 2024, experiential learning was said to be a hallmark aspect of the student experience. With that being said, EPICS was slated to be a significant part of that. The task before us was to launch EPICS in Indy with enough community partners to meet the student need as every first year engineering student in Indianapolis would enroll in EPICS or VIP. Beyond that we also developed a pre and post community partner survey to track first semester partner satisfaction.



Community Connections

In order to find the partnerships we needed for the Fall we utilized community events, faculty and staff referrals, as well as personal referrals. We also met with current EPICS partners located in Indianapolis to see if they wanted to possibly transition to Indianapolis or have an additional team there. Potential partnership meetings were conducted virtually and in person. We also leveraged some of our international partnership and partnered with some Purdue departments for recruitment projects. When the Fall 2024 semester began EPICS had 34 teams in Indianapolis.

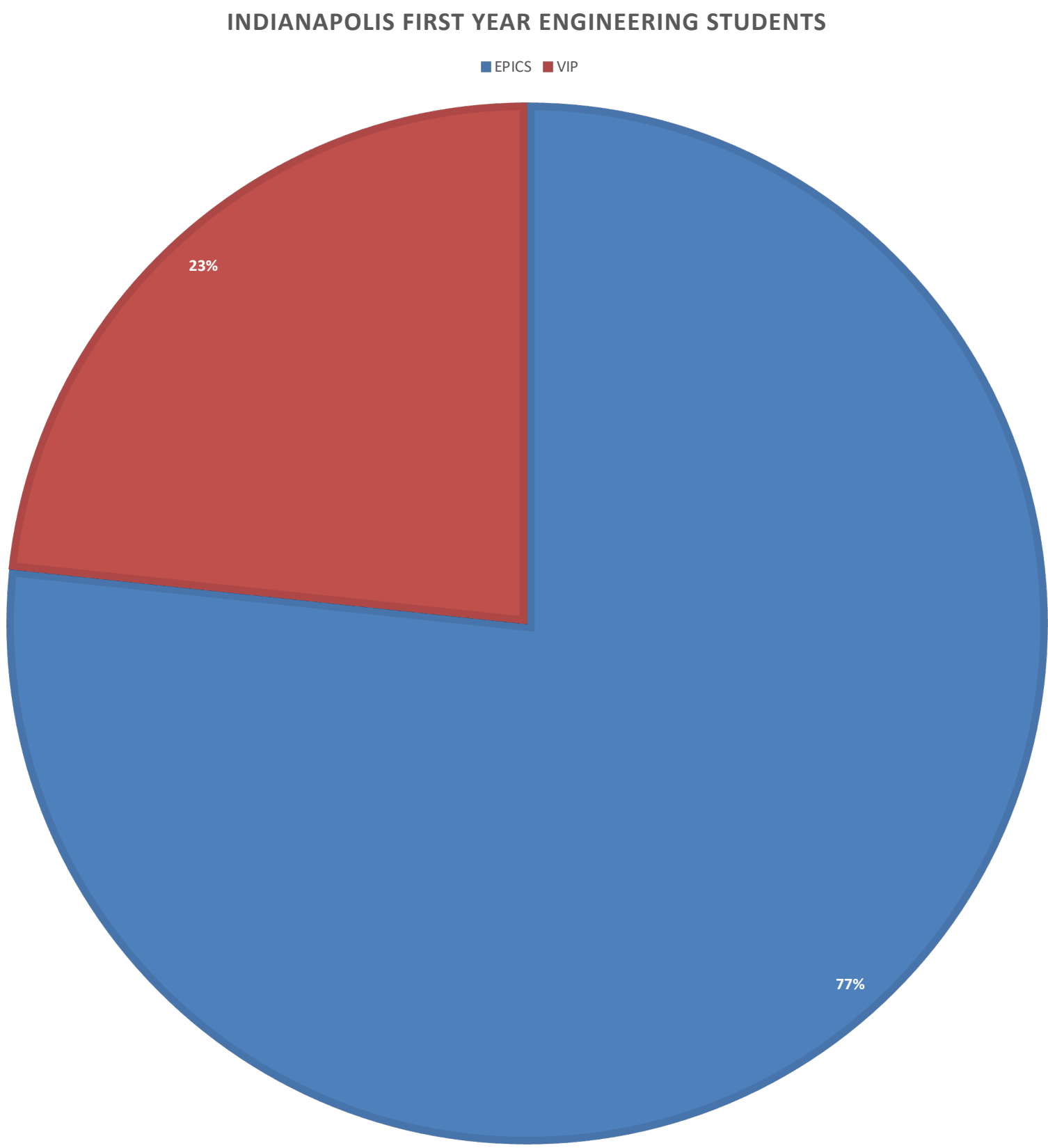
New Partners and a New Experience

With the combination of new partners at a new location, the goal was to be proactive with communication and expectations with our new partners. In order to do this a pre-and post survey was developed to collect feedback initially and then at the end of one semester of the partnership. The surveys were developed based on a collection of other community partner satisfaction surveys as well as criteria we have found to be vital to successful partnerships such as communication, understanding etc.

The pre-survey was distributed the second week of classes and the post survey was distributed the last last week of classes. Overall satisfaction rates were high. Partners appreciated communication, saw progress with projects and excited for the future of the partnership. Growing pains occurred including scheduling, transportation, storage, etc. End of semester included presentations and a poster symposium as well as progress towards future delivery.



Fall 2024 Enrollment



Next Steps

As Purdue Indianapolis continues to grow, the EPICS program will also continue to grow. New teams will be added and hopefully the number of upper division students will grow. The program will use the survey feedback to refine communication with partners and define which processes may need refining for Indianapolis.

The survey will also be refined to allow for non anonymous feedback so that if follow up is needed or wanted, that can be applied. Purdue Indianapolis is going through an exciting time of building and creation and EPICS continues to be committed and excited to providing an innovative and impactful experience for students and the community. These mutual relationships and projects will change lives.