

## IDEALS study to explore student perspectives on diversity

**Kori Bowns**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Interfaith Diversity Experiences and Attitudes Longitudinal Survey (IDEALS) will be measuring the worldview and perspectives of this year's incoming class as they progress through their time at Illinois Institute of Technology.

The survey, conducted in partnership with North Carolina State University, New York University, and Interfaith Youth Core, is currently available for first-year students and will be administered again at the end of students' first and fourth years

at the university. According to Interfaith Youth Core's website, IDEALS aims to "better understand student encounters with religious, spiritual, and worldview diversity across the spectrum of American higher education." The information collected by the survey will be available to universities to help campuses like IIT determine which practices and initiatives related to interfaith diversity are most effective and beneficial to the growth of students.

Illinois Tech joins over 130 other institutions across the country that participate in the survey, which allows administrators to compare students' experiences in a variety of different higher education environments.

This list of universities participating alongside IIT includes large state schools, small private schools, urban schools, rural schools, religiously-affiliated schools, and everything in between.

According to Lynne Meyer, IIT's Director of Spiritual Life and Diversity, the IDEALS study will "help guide efforts to ensure students have access to innovative educational programs and experience a positive campus climate." Meyer says the survey will take about 15 minutes for students to complete and will ask about experiences with different religious backgrounds as well as current opinions. She adds that both religious and nonreligious

perspectives from students are important for the study. Meyer also hopes that all students encourage first year students at IIT to complete the survey—"The higher our response rate, the more useful the resulting data will be."

In order to complete the IDEALS study, first year students can visit [tinyurl.com/IllinoisTech-IDEALS](http://tinyurl.com/IllinoisTech-IDEALS). The survey is currently open and will close on September 21. All students who complete the survey will be rewarded with a \$5 Amazon gift card. Questions can be directed to Lynne Meyer at [lmeyer2@iit.edu](mailto:lmeyer2@iit.edu).

## Illinois Tech chapter of Electrochemical Society organizes on campus

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According to the organization's website, The Electrochemical Society (ECS) is an "educational organization concerned with a broad range of phenomena relating to electrochemical and solid-state science and technology." This year, a collection of IIT students interested in the ECS national organization are starting a local chapter on our campus.

Yue Li, one of the students involved with the formation of the IIT ECS chapter, says the new student organization aims to bring the goals of the national ECS chapter to students on campus. "Our chapter is a local student organization for promoting electrochemical areas and enriching students' life," said Li. He

also says that the chapter will help members make connections in academia and industry to further their professional development.

"To achieve these goals, we will focus on activities such as inviting researchers from industry and academia to IIT for presentations and talks or consultations with students regarding their careers, and holding events such as conferences where students can network with professionals in electrochemical areas," said Li.

According to the students forming the organization, students with a variety of interests are welcome to join the IIT ECS chapter. Li said, "Students who are interested in electrochemical research and those who are interested in start-ups related to batteries, fuel cells, solar cells, and dielectric technology and want to know more professionals in the

electrochemical fields are all welcome to join us."

Majors relevant to the interests of ECS include chemistry, chemical engineering, materials science, physics, mechanical engineering, environmental science, electrical engineering, and even business and food science. Currently, the students involved in organizing the chapter are primarily graduate students, but they hope to gain undergraduates as well and aim to be a diverse collection of students.

The organization isn't yet an official student organization at IIT, but the students working on its formation have been hard at work with planning and publicity. The organization already has 15 students involved and is hoping to attract more students in coming weeks. IIT ECS also has a website set

up for their chapter, [iitecs.org](http://iitecs.org), where students, staff, and faculty can learn more about the organization; news stories and events relevant to ECS will also be posted on the website in the future.

The organization has also recruited two IIT faculty advisors, Vijay Ramani, Hyosung S. R. Cho Endowed Chair Professor of Chemical Engineering, and Adam Hock, Assistant Professor of Chemistry. The group of students will be presenting to the Student Government Association Student Senate in the future regarding their goals, recruitment strategies, and programming ideas in order to be fully approved as a new student organization at IIT.

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**Next Meeting: Sunday, September 20 @ 4 p.m.**

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