Indiana University Bloomington has selected six faculty members to serve as 2021-22 fellows for the Academic Leadership Program (ALP), which helps develop leadership skills of professors who may pursue careers in academic administration.

The program is sponsored by the Big 10 Academic Alliance (formerly the Committee on Institutional Cooperation, or CIC), made up of the 14 universities in the Big Ten conference and the University of Chicago. All participants selected from the member universities will participate in three seminars hosted by Big 10 Academic Alliance universities and will take part in campus-based meetings and programs with administrative leaders.

“At IU Bloomington we know that we must invest in faculty in order to remain viable and competitive,” said Eliza Pavalko, vice provost for faculty and academic affairs. “The Academic Leadership Program leverages the resources and expertise of Big 10 Academic Alliance member institutions to develop the leadership necessary to maintain a community of excellent scholars and teachers.”

IU Bloomington Academic Leadership Program fellows for 2021-22 are:

- **Jeffrey Anderson**, associate dean for undergraduate education and professor of special education, W.W. Wright School of Education
- **Brenda Brenner**, Eugene O’Brien Bicentennial Executive Associate Dean (interim) and professor of music education, Jacobs School of Music
- **Edward Dallis-Comentale**, associate vice provost for arts and humanities in the Office of the Vice Provost for Research, director of arts and humanities council, and professor of English
- **Denvil Duncan**, faculty chair for the Hudson Scholars Program within the Office of the Vice president for Diversity, Equity, and Multicultural Affairs, and associate professor of the O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs
- **Selma Sabanovic**, associate dean for graduate programs and associate professor in the Department of Informatics and Cognitive Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences
- **Marietta Simpson**, Distinguished Rudy Professor of Music (Voice), Jacobs School of Music
Jeffrey Anderson

Jeff Anderson is the associate dean for undergraduate education and professor of special education in the School of Education at Indiana University. A recent department chair, he has extensive experience in teacher preparation, doctoral studies, and urban education. His research and development efforts have garnered more than $5 million in external funding for scholarship examining connections among school, community, and social interventions. His research goals include promoting emotional health, preventing mental illness, supporting families, and improving educational and social outcomes, especially for young people at risk for emotional and behavioral challenges and school failure. Author of more than 50 peer-reviewed publications, Anderson currently works on a desegregation project with the Civil Rights Division of the US Department of Justice. He is a former Independent Hearing Officer (Administrative Law Judge) for the Indiana Department of Education and is the past president of the Higher Education Consortium for Special Education (http://www.hecse.net/), a national advocacy organization focused on improving outcomes for people with disabilities through better federal policymaking.

Brenda Brenner

Brenda Brenner is the Eugene O’Brien Bicentennial Executive Associate Dean (Interim) and Associate Professor of Music Education in the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where she specializes in string music education, teaching applied violin, as well as courses in violin and string pedagogy. She received a BM and BME from Wichita State University, and an MM and DMA in violin performance from the Eastman School of Music. In addition to her appointment to the music education department, she serves as co-director of the IU String Academy, a position she has held since 1993. Her String Academy students have been featured in concerts in major venues throughout the United States and have presented tours throughout Europe, Asia and South America. As director of the Fairview Project -- a program in which every first and second grader in an underserved school is taught violin as part of the curriculum -- Brenner is researching the cognitive, academic and social outcomes of early instrumental music instruction. An active performer of chamber music throughout the United States, Brenner partners with pianist Kenneth Huber and her husband, organist Christopher Young. She also teaches and conducts at the IU Summer String Academy and is assistant director of the IU Retreat for Professional Violinists and Violists. She is an active international clinician, with recent appearances at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, the ASTA National Conferences, and at Music Educators Conferences throughout the United States. Brenner is a past president of the American String Teachers Association.

Edward Dallis-Comentale

Ed Dallis-Comentale is an associate vice provost for arts and humanities in the Office of the Vice Provost for Research, and professor of English. He is chair of the IU Bloomington Arts and Humanities Council, which is charged by the provost to expand arts and humanities campus programming that links artists, scholars, students and the public. Comentale earned a Ph.D. at the State University of New York in Buffalo and is author of two books on modernism and co-editor of The Year’s Work at the Zombie Research Center and The Year’s Work in Lebowski Studies. His work has appeared in The New York Times, The New Yorker, Rolling Stone and Dateline.
Denvil Duncan

Denvil Duncan is faculty chair for the Hudson Scholars Program within the Office of the Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Multicultural Affairs, and associate professor of the O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He is an economist whose primary research focuses on the causes and consequences of tax evasion. His research has explored the impact of tax evasion opportunities on income inequality, labor supply, risk taking behavior, and tax incidence. He has also written on the subjects of shadow economic activity, tax morale, and tax competition. As faculty chair, Duncan is focused on developing and implementing a three- to five-year strategic vision for Hudson & Holland Scholars. Specifically, leading the long-range development of the effort’s future goals, working in concert with the core priorities of OVPDEMA to advance access, retention, and timely degree completion.

Selma Sabanovic

Selma is an associate dean for graduate programs and associate professor in the Department of Informatics and Cognitive Sciences. She founded and directs the R-House Laboratory for Human-Robot Interaction research at IUB. Her work combines the social studies of computing, focusing particularly on the design, use, and consequences of socially interactive and assistive robots in different social and cultural contexts, with research on human-robot interaction (HRI) and social robot design. Her main research goals are threefold: (1) developing a critical understanding of the development and use of socially interactive robots in society; (2) studying how social and cultural factors influence robotics science and technology development; and (3) using critical perspectives and insights from the social study of interactive robotic technologies to design, implement, and evaluate socially and culturally situated robots. She received a Ph.D. in science and technology studies from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 2007.

Marietta Simpson

Marietta Simpson is Distinguished Rudy Professor of Music in voice at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. The mezzo soprano’s celebrated career includes performances with every major orchestra in the United States, under many of the world’s greatest conductors. Simpson has also sung with many of the major European orchestras, including the philharmonic orchestras of London, Prague, Berlin, and Vienna. An award-winning artist she received an Emmy for Strange Fruit with guitarist Dr.Tyron Cooper produced by WFYI Television, Grammy recognition in 2006 for her solo role on the Grammy Award-winning recording of William Bolcom’s Songs of Innocence and Experience (Naxos), and most recently a 2021 Telly award for Crooked Stick: the live concert produced by WTIU. In 2019 she was selected as a fellow in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and in 2021 she was selected as a member of the American Academy of Teachers of Singing. She is currently President-elect for the Bloomington Faculty Council.

About the Academic Leadership Program

Established in 1989, the Academic Leadership Program has developed leadership and managerial skills of nearly 1,000 fellows, many of whom have gone on to serve with distinction as college presidents, provosts and deans. The program is oriented to address the challenges of academic administration at major research universities and to help faculty members prepare to meet them.