



# PETM Students Making Monumental Impact

Indy racing isn't just about motor sports. The Indianapolis Monumental Marathon (IMM), now heading into its ninth year, is the largest and fastest marathon in Indiana and one of the top 25 in the country. With such a great course and savvy execution, Runner's World dubbed the annual November race one of the "Top 9 Best New Marathons" in 2014 and one of "10 Runner's World-approved marathons" in 2015.

Lacing up alongside the IMM this year was IUPUI's School of Physical Education and Tourism Management (PETM). Conversations between PETM lecturer Allison Plopper, MS, and the marathon's executive director, Blake Bolden, began three years ago and led

to this mutually beneficial collaboration between kinesiology students and IPS students (grades kindergarten through middle school).

The idea is to promote healthy living and fitness for all ages—and a partnership between this community event and the university students from the heart of community is a natural win-win.

"We send our first-year students to IPS elementary schools to run with the kids six weeks before the race," says Plopper. "They're not in charge of the programming—the teachers do that—but our students build rela-