



Building Better Communities Fellows
Spring Showcase APRIL 21, 2015





The Building Better Communities Fellows program

provides a framework for Ball State faculty and students to connect with Indiana businesses and nonprofit organizations through immersive learning projects.

Students benefit by gaining experience and expertise beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

Faculty benefit from support services including project development, diverse student recruitment, budget management, and publicity assistance.

Community partners benefit when students examine their challenges from a fresh perspective.

As part of their fellows experience, students receive professional development training in collaboration with the Ball State Career Center. Staff members from BBC Fellows, the Digital Corps, Emerging Technologies and Information Technology Services provide technical training and support to project teams.



Ball State to Broadway (Documentary Project)

This course is part of the ongoing journey documenting the musical, *The Circus in Winter*, as it continues commercial development on an inspiring Broadway trajectory. This will require film teams to follow three Ball State alumni who have been involved in the progress of the show. Since this is the first time that a student-created musical could make it all the way to Broadway, the opportunity to document this journey as an immersive learning experience is an exciting and natural complementary piece to the musical. The project plans to offer the final story to media outlets or as a revenue generating subset for the musical via DVD and online downloads.

Faculty Mentor: Sonny Wingle

Department: Department of Telecommunications

Community Partner: Ball State University—*The Circus in Winter*

Students: Chauncey Baker, James Gartner, Israel Horton, Rebecca Malburg,
Chase Sarten, Sarah Swingley



Ball State University African American Alumni Oral History Project

In the lead-up to Ball State's centennial celebration in 2018, students in Michael Doyle's Oral History Workshop conducted interviews with selected members of the Black Alumni Constituent Society who earned their degrees from the University between 1950 and 2000. These interviews were recorded using high-definition digital video technology. Afterward, students transcribed these interviews for publishing on the University Libraries Digital Media Repository, where the corresponding videos will also be available for web streaming. The team's process and progress was documented in a short film that also featured highlights from the interviews and was streamed from the DMR to provide viewers with an overview of the project.

Faculty Mentor: Michael Doyle

Department: Department of History

Community Partner: Black Alumni Constituent Society and University Libraries Archives and Special Collections

Students: Kristal All, Charelle Brown, Janie Fulling, Alan Hovorka, Rishad Readus, Charlotte Sipe, Ellie Snyder, Janae Troyer, Sam Utley

Beech Grove Book and Phone App

Beech Grove Cemetery holds many wonderful stories about the people who came from Muncie and made contributions as state, national, and international citizens. Muncie's Beech Grove Cemetery Board asked Ball State students to create a book to document these stories and to transfer that content into a walking tour that would allow visitors to access that information via smartphones. Students gained experience in historical research, technical, and public writing. The students were responsible for conducting research, identifying themes, designing interpretation, and selecting stories for the book and app.

Faculty Mentor: Ronald V. Morris

Department: Department of History

Community Partner: Beech Grove Cemetery Board

Students: Aiste Manfredini, Victoria Meldrum



Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville: Marketing Communications

The Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville wishes to enhance its marketing program to increase participation in its sports league, after-school, and summer program activities. This multidisciplinary immersive project focused on several objectives, including strengthening the organization's brand image and awareness within the community; developing an integrated marketing communications plan and promotional materials targeted at its donor, family, and volunteer segments; building media outlet presence; attracting community marketing partners; and enhancing the marketing expertise of club personnel.

Faculty Mentor: Russ Wahlers

Department: Department of Marketing

Community Partner: Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville

Students: Olivia Beard, Tyler Brown, Gabrielle Bunn, Kellie Butler, Kaitlyn Crowder, Jared Farver, Shae Gist, Sophie Herman, Autumn Hill, Nicole Kimack, Dawn Martin, Ankit Patel, Cheyenne Preston, Tyler Rollins, Stephanie Scribner, Claire Scully, Teresa Trauner

Cold Case Delaware County: Making a Difference for Families and the Local Criminal Justice System

Cold case homicides are difficult and painful for law enforcement and family survivors alike. Such cases can go unsolved for years and even decades. Building on previous successful and award-winning projects, this team partnered with local law enforcement and forensic science agencies on unsolved murders to provide meaningful products intended to assist these entities with cold case homicide visibility. A significant problem with the visibility of cold case homicides rests with the “staying power” of public information about cases and gaining valuable intelligence. The project team constructed detailed case reports on unsolved homicide cases from case files and interviews and also produced video public service announcements in an effort to generate tips on local unsolved homicides.

Faculty Mentor: Bryan Byers

Department: Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

Community Partners: Delaware County’s Sheriff Department, the Muncie Police Department and the Delaware County Coroner’s Office

Students: Sara Boebiner, Ryan Cannon, Tyler Chrisman, Sheldon Gregory, Tanner Hile, MeMe Jett, Kayla Manning, Joel Prather, Andrew Quinlisk, Nichole Sass, Peyton Schneider, Travis Stinson, Mackenzie Weisweaver, Christopher Zinerman



Community Philanthropy Profiles

This project includes a video series titled Community Philanthropy Profiles, featuring projects supported by the Ball Brothers Foundation and other organizations in the region. The purpose is to highlight the kinds of projects made possible through philanthropy. These short videos showcase a variety of community organizations, highlight the services they provide, and demonstrate the positive outcomes for community members. The videos have been released as part of a social media campaign and on the websites of partner organizations.

Faculty Mentor: Chris Flook

Department: Department of Telecommunications

Community Partner: Ball Brothers Foundation

Students: Alina Beteringhe, Adrian Blackwell, Carolyn Case, Shane Dresch,
Lan Franczek, Chloe Franklin, Nicole Lehrman, Brandon Orr, Haley Turk

Exhibit Development for the State Fair— Pathways to Water Quality

The Pathways to Water Quality exhibit has been a popular fixture at the Indiana State Fairgrounds since 1993. It is an excellent watershed demonstration site, showing how proper management practices at home, on the farm, and in business can protect our soil and water resources. This project team developed educational displays and plans for expanding the year-round exhibit. The planning process included developing a physical design of the plan and developing curriculum/display materials for the different teaching/learning stations throughout the watershed model implementing the knowledge of sustainable practices.

Faculty Mentor: Jessi Ghezzi

Department: Natural Resources and Environmental Management

Community Partners: Indiana Conservation Project, Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, ISDA Division of Soil Conservation, Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, State Soil Conservation Board, USDA Farm Service Agency, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Students: Hayley Anderson, Sandeep Apsingekar (graduate assistant), Kasey Burchett, Riley McManus, Jacob Pluskis, Samantha Rhodehamel, Logan Wolfschlag

Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Report for Ball State University

Ball State University demonstrates its dedication to a sustainable future through curricula, leadership, scholarship, service, and operations. For the past four years, students have been documenting the University's environmental, social, and economic impacts using the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) G4 Sustainability Reporting Guidelines. The GRI is a standard reporting framework used by many of the world's largest corporations.

In the spring of 2015, students produced the fifth such GRI report for the university. This latest report serves as an important resource for university leaders to use when setting performance goals for evaluating the university's progress toward an ecologically resilient, economically prosperous, and socially just future. Students gained experience in communications, project management, and team building while developing deeper understandings about the interconnectedness of systems and the implications of sustainability commitments for the university community—in its teaching, research, service, and operations.

Faculty Mentor: Mary Annette Rose

Department: Department of Technology

Community Partner: Ball State University

Students: Drew Bailey, Haley Carroll, Drew Davies, Zachary W. Gick, Jessica Hill, Nicole MacLean, Cheryl Simpkins, Kyle Specker

The Greening of Middletown, USA

The Greening of Middletown, USA is a collaborative project among students in Ball State's Department of Telecommunications. Over the course of the project, students will work closely with their client, Sustainable Indiana 2016, an organization dedicated to discovering, cataloging, and celebrating Hoosier-based sustainable initiatives. The documentary will focus on various greening efforts in the city of Muncie, a once thriving rustbelt city that served as a portrait of modern American culture in the renowned 1930s Middletown Studies. The documentary will raise awareness about climate change and other pressing environmental issues facing the planet today, while also exploring what a small Midwestern city can do to help. The finished program will be shown as part of Indiana's bicentennial celebration.

Faculty Mentors: Rod Smith and Jeanette Castillo

Department: Department of Telecommunications

Community Partner: Sustainable Indiana 2016 and Earth Charter Indiana

Students: Mindy Bender, Luke Butler, Emily Combs, Jessica Dunson, Nicholas Ewing, Alaynee Fink, Christian Piatek, Natalie Ullrich



Indiana State Parks Phone App

The Indiana State Parks will celebrate its 100th birthday in 2016 at the same time the state celebrates its bicentennial. The students created a phone application using GPS software that helps visitors to the state parks learn about the history of the park through a combination walking and driving tour. The visitors look through their smartphones to see the park. When visitors see an interpretive kiosk through their phones, they may activate it, and listen to audio content about the history of the state park.

Faculty Mentor: Ronald V. Morris

Department: Department of History

Community Partner: Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Students: Ashton Hampton, Samantha Harsh

Industry Neighborhood Action Plan

The Industry Neighborhood Action Plan (INAP) was a citizen-generated policy regarding the future of the neighborhood. It contained initiatives, developed by the residents of the neighborhood with the assistance of the students, which aim to make physical, economic, social, and environmental improvements in the neighborhood. The neighborhood's plan falls under the umbrella of the Muncie Action Plan, which is a strategic guide for the city to create an action agenda for the future. A handbook was also produced as a document to aid citizen planners when they begin to enact initiatives from the neighborhood's plan.

Faculty Mentor: Lisa Dunaway

Department: Department of Urban Planning

Community Partner: Industry Neighborhood Association

Students: Ty Adley, Austin Brass, Davonte Caldwell, Lindi Conover, Amber Eckert-Jones, Ibrahim Galeza, Brock Goodwin, Heath Harper, Nicholas Hufford, Kenneth Hughes, Kristina Kuzma, Drew Pflaumer, Jessica Pflaumer, Ross Pietrzak



Innovation Connector Entrepreneurship Initiative Development

This project was a two-semester commitment to help the Innovation Connector. The Innovation Connector is a small business incubator in Muncie. As ambassadors, students assisted in designing print material, advertising, marketing, video production, and event planning for multiple initiatives and events. Additionally, part of their charge was to help the IC identify uses for and ways to promote its new co-working facility, the Downtown Business Connector. Finally, in the spirit of innovation and co-working space, the team worked with Creative Sanctuary 765 in Alexandria, Indiana. The students helped CS765 with program development in areas such as urban gardening, culinary arts, photography, and summer initiatives for schoolchildren. The team also assisted with writing job descriptions and developing an organizational schemata.

Faculty Mentor: Peggy Fisher

Department: Department of Communication Studies

Community Partner: Innovation Connector

Students: Kayla Battle, Sarah DeWitt, Preston Hertel, J. Scott McCorkle, Rebecca Schooley, Nancy Shitakha

Louis E. Ingelhart Scholars and The Facing Project

Ball State University students (14 from the Department of Journalism and five from the Department of English) combined their effort and energy to produce the next iteration of The Facing Project, a local initiative which aims to connect people through stories to strengthen communities. Each iteration reveals people in our community who face certain circumstances and wish to share their stories. The students chose to concentrate on Facing Depression in East Central Indiana. All stories have been published in a free book and distributed at a community debut as well as to those who may have direct influence toward those who face depression—such as doctors, counselors, therapists, teachers, coaches, parents, and friends. The goal of The Facing Project is to inform and educate about underreported and sometimes misunderstood topics.

Faculty Mentor: Adam Kuban

Department: Department of Journalism

Community Partner: The Facing Project

Students: Emily Brungard, Jason Conerly, Nathan DeYoung, Robert General, Jessica Golden, Sophie Gordon, Danielle Grady, Ellen Hacker, Alan Hovorka, Kaitlin Lange, Chelsey Nicholls, Cailin Reedy, Emma Rogers, Casey Smith



Meals on Wheels: Moving Forward, Faster

This project team worked with Meals on Wheels of Muncie Inc., a community program designed to deliver meals to homebound persons unable to prepare their own balanced meals. Students created a website that showcases videos and other media content that tells the stories of both those served and those who volunteer to serve. Also, it will have a web page to help people make small donations easily for Meals on Wheels of Muncie.

Faculty Mentors: Michael Lee and Maria Williams-Hawkins

Department: Department of Telecommunications

Community Partner: Meals on Wheels

Students: Billy Barry, Matthew Battiato, Chris Beaman, Marcus Cwil, Wilson Diebold, Dalton Duncan, Kevin Glassing, Dalton Kramer, Darren Logsdon, Jack Smith, Nicholas Stroia, Evan Van Bibber

Mobile Learning at the Indianapolis International Airport and Solar Farm

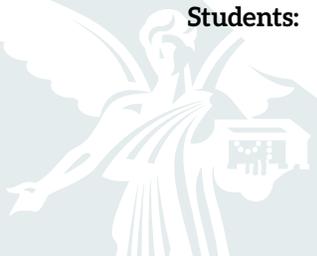
The Indianapolis Airport Authority (IAA) is a model for integrating sustainability principles into the planning and daily operations of an airport and the 9,000 acres it manages. In a three-year agreement, Ball State is serving as the educational sponsor with the IAA and the partners of the IND Solar Farm, namely the Telamon Corporation and Johnson Melloh Solutions. This collaboration is supported by the Center for Energy Research/Education/Service (CERES). The goal is to couple wireless technology—smartphones and tablets—with engaging digital resources that would enable travelers, visitors, and workers to the Indianapolis International Airport to transform wait time into learning opportunities about these sustainability initiatives. In the second semester of the project, the Mobile Learning team developed informative videos for visitors to learn about the IND Solar Farm and the Col. H. Weir Cook Terminal Building.

Faculty Mentor: Mary Annette Rose

Department: Department of Technology

Community Partner: Indianapolis International Airport, Johnson Melloh Solutions, and Telamon Corporation

Students: Brandon Burgoa, Weston Cockrel, Justin “Brooks” Copple, Jordan Harris, Timothy Wade McBride, Amrutha Pulikottil, Allison Wilson



Muncie Neighborhood Surveys

The Muncie Action Plan Task Force 2 is working to energize and mobilize the neighborhood associations of Muncie. There is a need to better understand how the various neighborhoods conceptualize their boundaries and define their unique identities in order to best meet residents' needs and increase engagement. The project team focused on the Riverside Normal City and Southside neighborhoods. The students created and administered a survey and provided a summary report of their findings to Muncie Action Plan Task Force 2.

Faculty Mentor: Melinda Messineo

Department: Department of Sociology

Community Partner: Muncie Action Plan Task Force 2

Students: Matthew Barrows, Alexis Beane, Nicholas Forth, Trey Gardner, Leah Martine, Jordan Mullen, Victoria Ong, William Osborn, Eric Patterson, Katherine Paxton, Danielle Renckly, Marlina Steinhall, Joy Targgart

Police + the Press

This project situated students in the professional demands of a local police officer, particularly what it takes to become one and what it means to be one. Through practical and hands-on experiences with Ball State University police officers, students improved their comprehension of the practices, protocols, and pressures of local law enforcement. This project team contributed to a tablet app by creating multimedia feature stories and Storify content for other students and those connected to them to better understand and connect with local officers. On a broader level, this project will hopefully ignite a trend to bolster the relationship between the police and the press.

Faculty Mentor: Adam Kuban

Department: Department of Journalism

Community Partner: Ball State University Police Department

Students: Kara Berg, Clayton Bontrager, Kelsey Burr, Robert Connett, Zachary Davis, Sophie Gordon, Kelly Hopkins, Garrett Lamkin, Michael Martinez, Rachel Podnar, Zachary Shilts, Jenna Spadafora, Kristina Thomas



Primacy of Place Video Series

This project includes a video series titled Primacy of Place, exploring the concept of philanthropy and community development based in Muncie-Delaware County. These videos highlighted the various programs that need philanthropic support in order to improve community quality of place, such as parks, environmental friendliness, restoration, and other visual improvements necessary for a vibrant community.

Faculty Mentor: Chris Flook

Department: Department of Telecommunications

Community Partner: Ball Brothers Foundation

Students: Geordan Baker, Wendy Faunce, Eric Guanajuato, Michael Harris, Neil Hausey, Micah Holtgraves, Sam Hunter, Felicia Keen, Chris Kosinski, D'Marcus Pulce, Katherine Stevens, Emma Thornburg, R. Aaron Webster

Schools Within the Context of Community

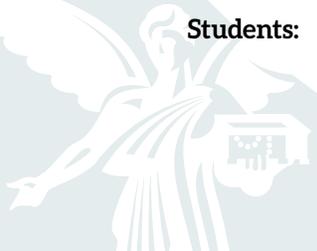
This immersive semester took place on the south side of Muncie, within the community surrounding South View Elementary School. South View serves students coming from a community in which families have been dramatically impacted by the closing of the factories. Ninety-one percent of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch and their families deal with the daily impact of living in poverty in America. In order to become impactful teachers, responsive to the needs of all their students, preservice teachers need opportunities to develop relationships of respect and understanding within the community in which they teach. Ball State students in this immersive learning journey participated in carefully planned events in the community, along with poverty awareness events, in order to learn more about what life for students and their families is like when living near or below the poverty line in America. While learning about the impact of poverty in the lives of those with whom they interact, students identified a specific community need in which they developed a plan to address in collaboration with community members.

Faculty Mentors: Angela Hampton

Department: Department of Elementary Education

Community Partners: Southview Elementary School and the Ross Community Center

Students: Mikki Arnold, Amanda Bowersox, Alyssa Dishong , Hannah Lugar, Cassandra Mann, Ashley Maupin, Katy Nicholas, Emily Seibert



Townsend Community Center

This project team assessed the needs of the community where the Townsend Community Center sits. A needs assessment survey was administered to the local residents through door-to-door visits. A focus group with business leaders, community leaders, educators, and potential partners was also held. This information was needed because while the center's board of directors had heard from funding sources and community leaders as to what they want from the center, the local residents had not voiced their hopes for the community center. Results of the survey directly benefited the ongoing efforts of the Center to meet the needs of its residents especially those who live within a mile of the center. These survey results will lead to the development of a future strategic plan.

Faculty Mentors: John O'Connell and Sandra Shelly

Departments: Department of Mathematical Sciences and Department of Social Work

Community Partner: Townsend Community Center

Students: Kelsie Addison, Tyler Andrzejewski, Vaytta Arroyo, Elizabeth Bowers, Mercedes Carr, Morgan Carroll, Melissa Dawson, Laura Ferrari, Lexi Ford, Tabby Hall, Lindi Johnson, Keri Kochvar, Victoria Maddox, Kyle Naugle, Cassidy Roeglin, Leah Roller, Mercedes Rubow, Chelsey Sallee, Alaina Schmidt, Ashley Trice, Allison Walker, Cydney Young



Building Better Communities Fellows projects offer teams of students the opportunity to connect with communities, businesses, and government agencies to collaboratively develop solutions to their unique challenges.

Ball State University aspires to be the most student-centered and community-engaged of the 21st century public research universities—committed to improving quality of life for all.

