In an effort to provide greater reinforcement to our partners in Muncie Community Schools, the leadership team in Teachers College proposed a new way for the university to organize the other colleges. Ball State University is made up of 9 colleges across its campus. It involves building a structure for more intentional support and closer, on-going relationships with each the individual schools in MCS. Last spring, a group of Ball State college representatives met with Dr. Kendra Lowery to discuss ways to begin building opportunities for service and support by working with principals in each building. Since that time, each college representative has connected with the principal of their MCS partner school. In some cases, real work has already been accomplished! Over the summer, Teachers College provided much needed manual labor to get the greenhouse at Southside Middle School up and operational. Science teacher Kinley Williams needed some assistance clearing raised garden beds and prepping the greenhouse so that students can learn as they grow this year. In some cases, plans are ready to go for the fall semester: Muncie Area Career Center and Muncie Central High School will be on campus to meet their colleagues in the College of Science and Humanities, discussing creative ways they can work together. Stay tuned for more features of the ways that each school connects with their college!

Pictured above right: Sari Harris (Ball State Teachers College), Monica Randler (SSMS), Kinley Williams (SSMS) and Kendra Lowery (Ball State Teachers College) conquer the raised garden beds and the heat to help prep the outdoor learning space at Southside Middle School!

Pictured below right: Shauna Turner (Ball State), Rachel Yoder (MCS), Sari Harris (Ball State), Monica Randler (MCS), Ted Harris (community volunteer) and Kinley Williams (MCS) (not pictured Dr. Kendra Lowery BallState) work to restore the Southside Middle School greenhouse prior to the first day of school.
Muncie, IN. – Muncie Community Schools’ has named Megan Jercha and Isaac Denniston as its Teachers of the Year for the 2020-21 school year.

Jercha, a 4th grade teacher at North View Elementary, is the district’s primary Teacher of the Year (grades K-5) while Denniston, a Choir teacher at Northside Middle School, is its secondary Teacher of the Year (grades 6-12).

MCS administrators selected Jercha for her dedication and leadership as she helped develop curriculum while building a genuine rapport with students and her fellow teachers.

“I am honored to be Elementary Teacher of the Year,” Jercha said. “I have worked alongside so many great educators who have helped me grow within the profession. I appreciate my 10 years with Muncie Community Schools and look forward to the future!”

Officials chose Denniston thanks to his innovative teaching methods, including his technology skills, and for going “above and beyond” in order to give his students a comprehensive music education experience and recognition.

“I am very surprised, but also honored,” Denniston said. “It is only possible due to a very supportive administration, my colleagues and my remarkable students. They have been so enthusiastic about everything, and I couldn’t have asked for a better group of people to teach every day!”

On June 14, 2021 nearly everyone was breathing easy that the school year was complete and they could begin looking forward to some summer rest and relaxation! But a room full of MCS administrators, principals, PDS liaisons, master teachers and representatives from Ball State’s Research and Design Studio were hard at work reviewing the data from the 2020-2021 academic year from each school. Their job was to identify areas of challenge that could be addressed as we work together to target student achievement in reading/language arts and math. Each school looked carefully at areas of difficulty for students and began to write goals and develop plans to address those areas in conjunction with their own team. PDS liaisons for each school helped to develop those goals and work with master teachers and principals to find ways that they can provide assistance in classrooms and possibly additional resources (volunteers, Ball State education students, College Connections, etc.) to help with achievement gaps in identified areas. Just another way that we are BETTER TOGETHER!
Welcome to Kelsey Pavelka! She is serving as PDS liaison to East Washington Academy this year and has ready made the transition from MCS classroom teacher to Ball State faculty member! Kelsey grew up in the Caribbean, on the island of Puerto Rico.

She loves traveling to new and familiar places around the world with her wife and three amazing kids! In her free time, she loves listening to audiobooks and the latest true crime podcasts, spending time with friends, and playing board games with family. This semester she will have the joy of teaching EDEL 244 - Early and Elementary Education for Social Justice to three sections of pre-service teachers. Though this is her first year with Ball State, it is her fourth year working with the students of MCS; first as a Dual Language Immersion teacher at West View Elementary and now as a PDS liaison. She has already met with teaching staff at EWA and is ready to lend a hand in student success and achievement this year. Her focus is collaboration with classroom teachers on making small, strategic instructional changes that will lead to big changes throughout the year.

“I have enjoyed partnering alongside Principal Sarah Anglin and EWA’s Master Teacher, Angie Butler, to identify and predict gaps in student learning specifically related to early literacy.”

The Indiana Department of Education awarded $2.9 million in grant funding to Teachers College as a part of the COVID-19 learning recovery initiative. The programs funded include working with community partners: YWCA of Central Indiana, Ross Community Center, Muncie Community Schools, and Whitely Community Council. Local school partners include: Muncie Community Schools, Inspire Academy, Burris Laboratory School, Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities. The funding provided learning recovery opportunities for students in a variety of ways including summer camps like Summer Learning Fun at Camp Adventure which took place in June. Students in third grade focused on science and literacy with the help of Ball State pre-service teachers under the direction of Mrs. Stacey Allred and Dr. Rona Robinson-Hill.
To foster a professional learning community within our sphere of influence that provides a dynamic network of research and professional development. We do this by identifying and partnering with those educational entities, which provide our students with vital clinical field experiences key to developing appropriate knowledge, skills and dispositions proven to have a positive impact on P12 learning.

Teachers College Room 205  
Phone: 765-285-1168  
Fax: 765-285-2854  
Website: www.bsu.edu/teachers/otes  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/BSUOTESCP  
Twitter: @ballstateotescp  
Office hours: 7am-5pm  
(Summer hours: 7:30am-4pm)