BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES FELLOWS

Summer and Fall Showcase • December 8, 2014
Building Better Communities Fellows

The Building Better Communities (BBC) 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 a three-year (at present) journey documenting the musical *The Circus in Winter* as it continues commercial development on an inspiring Broadway trajectory. This will require film teams going to the various regional locations (Connecticut, Texas, Illinois) to follow three Ball State alumni who have been involved in the progress of the show. Since this is the first time that a Ball State 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.
The Blaine Southeast Neighborhood Action Plan is a citizen-generated policy regarding the future of the neighborhood. It contains initiatives, developed by the residents 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 will also be produced as a document to aid citizen planners when they begin to enact initiatives from the neighborhood’s plan.
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.

Community Partner:
Ball Brothers Foundation

Faculty Mentor:
Chris Flook

Department:
Department of Telecommunications

STUDENTS
Chauncey Baker
Carolyn Case
Jacqueling Conflenti
Sam Courter
Shane Dresch
Chloe Franklin

Olivia Laird
W. Brandon Orr
Steph Pifer
Emma Thornburg
Haley Turk
Nathaniel Wilson
Universities are receiving increased attention about their investment portfolios and the degree to which they are connected to fossil fuel industries. Recently, Stanford University and the University of Dayton have joined the list of campuses that have made a commitment to divert investments from these industries. The Council on the Environment (COTE) would like to assess the Ball State community’s awareness of and attitudes toward institutional portfolio divestment. Students created and administered an assessment to fulfill that purpose.

Community Partner:
Ball State University—Council on the Environment

Faculty Mentor:
Melinda Messineo

Department:
Department of Sociology

STUDENTS
Katie Blankenship
Haley Bruce
Valerie Hawkins
Kyeonghyun Kim
Ricky Lamb
Ashleigh Laymon
Allison Miltenberger

Holly Myers
Eric Patterson
Jessica Poore
Gage Van Dine
Cara Wilcox
The goal of this project was to support the efforts of Sustainable Indiana 2016, an organization dedicated to discovering, cataloging, and celebrating Hoosier-based climate solutions as a bicentennial legacy. Teams of Ball State students were sent to various key neighborhoods around the city of Muncie to shoot, direct, and produce documentaries and videos to be used in social media campaigns and other platforms. The videos showcased a diverse set of narratives, highlighting a variety of sustainability initiatives and exhibiting the concept of sustainability in the city of Muncie. Through the lens of “Middletown USA,” this project showcased the basic tenets of sustainability that can be applied across Indiana and beyond. Over the span of two semesters, a longer documentary will also be compiled from the footage acquired and will be used as part of Indiana’s bicentennial celebration.

Community Partners:
Sustainable Indiana 2016 and Earth Charter Indiana

Faculty Mentors:
Rod Smith and Jeanette Castillo

Department:
Department of Telecommunications

STUDENTS
Atilla Akyuz
Mindy Bender
Garret Brubaker
Gregory Cox
Arielle Day
Wendy Faunce
Alaynee Fink

Mariah Mason
Nicholas Murhling
Nicholas Sanchez
Zach Sheldon
Ben Sommers
Natalie Ullrich
Hong Yin
High Riding Art, Science, and Equestrian Day Camp

The High Riding Art, Science, and Equestrian Day Camp project offers authentic experiences for students seeking to design and implement a day camp program. Ball State students examined psychological, environmental, and cultural factors that affect children with mild and moderate disabilities. Working collaboratively with several community agencies and nonprofit organizations, the students planned and implemented a two-week program for campers with disabilities. The camp included horseback riding and associated equestrian experiences, arts and crafts, physical exercises, science, music, and other enrichment activities.

Community Partners:
Blackford County Community Foundation, Blackford County Schools, Mackey and McCammon Farms

Faculty Mentor:
Ruth Jones

Department:
Department of Special Education

STUDENTS
Samantha Keen, Student Assistant Director
Michelle Alexander
Megan Barnes
Linzey Claywell
Delainie Fink

Chelsea Gerald
Katie Green
Emily Hurst
Heather Kramer
Nicole Lucas
Mikaela Pieri
Innovation Connector Entrepreneurship Initiative Development

This project is a two-semester commitment to help the Innovation Connector (IC), a small business incubator in Muncie. As IC Ambassadors, students assisted in designing print material, advertising, marketing, video production, and event planning for multiple initiatives and events. Additionally, the ambassadors assisted with planning and facilitating business development seminars for IC. A final part of their charge is to help IC identify uses for and ways to promote its new facility in downtown Muncie.

Community Partner: Innovation Connector

Faculty Mentor: Peggy Fisher

Department: Department of Communication Studies

STUDENTS
Caren Adelsperger
Kayla Battle
Sarah DeWitt
Preston Hertle
Scott McCorkle
Rachel Regan
Rebecca Schooley
Nancy Shitakha
Christopher Taylor
Gabe Weaver
Meals and Memories on Wheels

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.

Community Partner:
Meals on Wheels

Faculty Mentors:
Maria Williams-Hawkins and Michael Lee

Department:
Department of Telecommunications

STUDENTS
Jonathan Abraham
Kelsey Blake
Siera Byer
Stephanie Cheng
Brooks Copple
Biying Huang
Caitlin Jedrzejek
Amirah King
Timothy McBride
Grant McVoy
Ethan Sweat
Zhiran Wang
Neal Werle
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 6,000 acres it manages. In a three-year agreement, Ball State is serving as the educational sponsor with IAA and the partners of IND Solar Farm Project, namely the Telamon Corporation and Johnson Melloh Solutions. The contract was arranged and continues to be 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 at the Indianapolis International Airport to transform wait time into learning opportunities about these sustainability initiatives. In this first semester, the mobile learning team assessed a range of technical, motivational, organizational, and media alternatives for a mobile learning system at the airport. After presenting these options to community partners, the team developed a model and master plan for the future development of original digital media components that will highlight the IND Solar Farm, LEED-certified structure, conservation management for the Indiana bat, Blue Indy electric cars, GRI report, relighting projects, and much more.

Community Partners: Indianapolis Airport Authority, Johnson Melloh Solutions, and Telamon Corporation

Faculty Mentor: Mary Annette Rose

Departments: Department of Technology and Center for Energy Research/Education/Service

STUDENTS
Haochen Du
Joshua Edwards
Nicholas Hufford
Shane Slater
Dennert Ware
Nature Play

Research shows that children who play in and explore natural environments adopt conservation and sustainability values as adults. Students from many disciplines developed innovative natural play elements for a nature-based outdoor learning environment for Head Start’s preschool in Muncie. An integration of design and environment, architecture and landscape was paramount in this immersive learning project. Sustainable construction and environmental education were the goals for this preschool environment. Age-appropriate activity settings were created in a user-centered manner allowing for open-ended explorations in natural habitats and sensitively constructed learning spaces. Interaction with children as well as client and community involvement were essential components for this project.

Community Partner:
Head Start of Delaware County

Faculty Mentor:
Pam Harwood

Department:
Department of Architecture

STUDENTS
Nouh Almusallam
Drew Bailey
Casey Byrnes
Michael Culler
Alexandre Mbala
Ekobena
Ross Goede
Adela Groth
Kevin Hundt
Caroline Lawson
Nathan Loudin
Scottie Manners
Samuel Pfeifer
Huy Pham
Daniel Skora
Amelia Stacy
Lindsey Stinson
Reed Thompson
Rotina Tian
Zahra Zamini
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 that are necessary for a vibrant community.

Community Partner:
Ball Brothers Foundation

Faculty Mentor:
Chris Flook

Department:
Department of Telecommunications

STUDENTS
Geordan Baker        Eric Guanajuato
Shane Dresch        Neil Hausey
Daniel Edwards      Micah Holtgraves
Taylor Edwards      Chris Kosinski
Lan Franczek       Colin McNutt
Kathie Green           D'Marcus Pulce
Promoting Nonprofit Organizations in a Cross-Media Context

Head Start’s mission is to foster healthy development in low-income children. Students involved in the Head Start project planned and produced a promotional campaign for Head Start of Delaware County that used local television, radio, print, and social media. The campaign’s goal was to promote Head Start’s services to eligible families while improving fundraising and increasing in-kind donations to the organization.

Community Partner:
Head Start of Delaware County

Faculty Mentors:
Miao Guo and Paige Waters

Department:
Department of Telecommunications

STUDENTS
Robert Aultman  
Michael Behrens  
Brittany Brooks  
Cody Czarniecki  
Taylor Edwards  
Mary Effner  
Alaynee Fink  
Emily Halley  
Mitchell Hannon

Emily Holliday  
Brianna Kirkham  
Braderick Morrison  
Richard Radtke  
Brittany Riddle  
William Rieth  
Michelle Snyder  
Natalie Ullrich
Sustainable Muncie

The goal of this project was to establish a community knowledge center that will provide local government, businesses, and citizens with information and resources needed to help these stakeholders engage in more sustainable practices. Students involved in this immersive learning class investigated how other communities addressed the issue of sustainability. The student team was responsible for identifying the sustainability resources already available in the community, determined resources that have not yet been established and would benefit the community, and developed a website that brings these resources together.

Community Partners:
Muncie Action Plan and Muncie City Council

Faculty Mentor:
David Hua

Department:
Department of Technology

STUDENTS
Cale Rauch
Bailey Shannon
Ningxin Zhang
Visit Indiana

The Indiana Office of Tourism Development has partnered with Ball State to use high-definition video technology to highlight local and regional tourism in the state of Indiana. This project is part of a three-year grant. The students will produce a series of “profile” videos of locations, regions, and tourist destinations of key places in Indiana. This semester, the teams focused on the Lake Region, Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Evansville, Chesterton, Mississinewa, and the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival.

Community Partner:
Indiana Office of Tourism Development

Faculty Mentor:
Chris Flook

Department:
Department of Telecommunications

STUDENTS
Alina Beteringhe
Adrian Blackwell
Jillian Clark
Brad Dailey
Becca Davila
Michael Harris
Jeff Holiday

Dan Johnson
Chris Kosinski
Lauren Alyssa
Kruger-Patchin
Brandon Loshe
R. Aaron Webster
Miranda Wuestefeld
In light of societal needs for an increased engagement in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and awareness of water resources, this immersive learning course focused on the public understanding of science and comprised a collaboration of students from multimedia production and the natural sciences. Students collected a range of water-quality data from local waterways and developed multimedia products that addressed the scientific and education mission of our community partners, Delaware County Soil and Conservation District and Red-Tail Land Conservancy. Through teamwork, students were expected to acquire defendable scientific results, conducted interviews with stakeholders, and generated multimedia products. Students then synthesized their information and disseminated their deliverables to a public audience of consultants, regulators, and landowners.
Yount’s Woolen Mill Archaeology Analysis and Exhibit Development

Over the course of three semesters (two summer sessions and the fall semester) this project team conducted a historical and archaeological study of the Yount’s Woolen Mill and Boarding House in Montgomery County, Indiana. Students in this class had the opportunity to do lab work to analyze artifacts from the archaeological dig on this site and contributed to a published book on the history and archaeology of the mill. They also had the opportunity to design and build a museum exhibit for the Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County.

Community Partners:
Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County, and Yount’s Woolen Mill

Faculty Mentors:
Mark Groover, Department of Anthropology, and Ronald V. Morris, Department of History

STUDENTS
Mandy Bode
Jason Edwardson
Tyler Goodwin
Lindsey Jessie
Stephen Lacey

Lisa Mercer
Nick Paris
Victoria Roderick
Elizabeth Worrick
Michelle Yockey
BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES FELLOWS SUMMER AND FALL 2014
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. We call this immersive learning, the hallmark of a Ball State education.