Building Better Communities Fellows

Funded in part by the Lilly Endowment Inc., 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 project support services and resources that assist in offering a greater diversity of students and an expanded list of community partners.

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 and the Excellence in Leadership program.

Technical training and support for Emerging Media Fellows projects are provided by the Digital Corps, Emerging Technologies, University Teleplex, and the Center for Media Design.
Building a Muncie Downtown Business Recruitment Strategy

The Muncie Downtown Development Board will be announcing a new branding campaign in the spring of 2013, and its Business Recruitment subcommittee is hoping to develop a recruitment package to give to prospective business owners interested in re-locating to downtown Muncie. The students canvassed the downtown retailers to determine the number of downtown housing units and their availability and gathered a great deal of demographic information. This information will be used by the Downtown Development Partnership for the development of a brochure to help recruit potential retail prospects.

COMMUNITY PARTNER
Muncie Downtown Development Board

FACULTY MENTOR
Frank Sabatine
Department of Political Science

STUDENTS
Katelyn Looker
Alyssa Shufelt
Mathew Wells
Marta Vitolins
Educational Games Inspired by Museums

Games can provide a motivating context for learning. This project explored the intersection of games, design, fun, and learning. A multidisciplinary student team designed and developed an educational board game about the Middle Mississippians at Angel Mounds and video game based on the exhibits at the Indiana State Museum. Students worked on game design, game programming, and video game development to develop prototypes.

EMERGING MEDIA FELLOWS

COMMUNITY PARTNER
Indiana State Museum

FACULTY MENTORS
Paul Gestwicki and Ronald V. Morris
Department of Computer Science and Department of History

STUDENTS
Matthew Bennett
Steffan Byrne
Jacob Clark
Andy Enochs
Alex Hoffman
Daniel Johnson
Wesley Jurica
Tom Mast
Amanda Meyer
Paige Rodeghero
James Romelfanger
Matt Waters

BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES FELLOWS SPRING 2013
Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Reporting for the City of Bloomington, Indiana

This student team created a report that presents the city’s environmental, economic and social impacts as defined by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Reporting Guidelines. These guidelines were selected because they can be used by any type of organization and are the dominant ones used by the largest 250 global companies.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS
City of Bloomington, Indiana

FACULTY MENTOR
Gwendolen White
Department of Accounting

STUDENTS
Amy Davis
Anqi Fang
Robert Fucela
Matthew Holmes
Jamie Holpuch

Danny House
Lauren Jennings
Blake McDaniel
Rushi Parikh
iGovernment: A Greener Approach to State Legislation

After the success of last year’s iPad project, the Indiana General Assembly doubled the number of paperless committees to four, including the House Ways and Means Committee. During the 2013 session, Ball State students and staff provided personalized iPad support to legislators and submitted their suggestions for improvement to Indiana Legislative Services.

STUDENTS
Elizabeth Grubbs
Steven Jones
Kayleigh Mohler
Kelsea Neal
Brent Wilson
Karla Wilson
Ken Winner
Brandon Wolfe
Indy Parks: Teen Environmental Awareness and Participation Research

Ball State Natural Resource and Environmental Management (NREM) students, with the support of Building Better Communities Fellows, produced project proposals for Indy Parks & Recreation. Acknowledging the need to reach the often-overlooked teenage population and provide opportunities that encourage outdoor recreation, environmental stewardship and civic involvement, the City of Indianapolis enjoyed receiving creative and innovative ideas from Ball State students.

COMMUNITY PARTNER
Indy Parks and Recreation

FACULTY MENTORS
Amy Gregg
Amy Rhodes, Graduate Teaching Assistant
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management

STUDENTS
Julia Backus
Anastasia Bliznoff
Brian Cope
John Crisman
Alex Davis
Timothy Graf
Ethan Hall
Michael Hutson
Amanda Jarvis
Nimisha Krishna
Sean McCloskey
Shayne Miller
Robin Reyes
Kyle Riley
Alec Salvatore
Jordan Santo
Ashley Sharkey
Amanda Valdez
Mary Wilson
Mentorship and the Innovation Connector: A Gateway for Business Assistance

This team put into action the strategic mentoring initiative it developed in the fall for the Innovation Connector. The Innovation Connector, a small business incubator, is hosting this unique program that brings small business owners and leaders into contact with each other and local resources such as SCORE, the Muncie/Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, and the Business Growth Council, to mention a few. Students organized the entire kickoff event, all publicity, social media, website, and logistics. Students also presented at functions such as Rotary meetings and Muncie on the Move breakfasts, and canvassed the community to personally talk with small business owners and leaders and invite them to the event.
Modeling Urban Form: Expressions of the Operational State of Design-for-Sustainability

Modeling of urban form has provided an opportunity to test the potential effect/influence of social, economic, and environmental constraints in the development of built environments. To address this problem, students in this project partnered with the Ball State University Academy for Sustainability and used a prototype urban form as a starting point for exploration of the influence and impact of social, economic, and environmental criteria. Running through a series of exercises, students built an inventory/history of design-decision-making tied to a deeper understanding of social, economic and environmental factors. Students then developed the more finalized set of integrated expressions of design-for-sustainability at the urban scale.
Research shows that children who play in and explore natural environments adopt conservation and sustainability values as adults. Students from many disciplines explored an environmentally responsible design ethic while researching best practice case studies and developing design principles for environmental education. Collected data was used to further develop and illustrate nature-based outdoor learning areas for the local Head Start preschool program in Muncie, Indiana.
Project Leadership and Ball State Partnership

Students partnered with the Project Leadership program to streamline their assessment and tracking processes through data collection and database development. This sociology class engaged in data entry and analysis to create solutions that will help the community partner to build on the program’s success.

COMMUNITY PARTNER
Project Leadership (21st Century Scholars Program)

FACULTY MENTOR
Melinda Messineo
Department of Sociology

STUDENTS
Stephanie Alles
Alaina Camblin
Ann Clark
Kent Collins
Emilee Deardorff
Michael Dunham
Amanda Groves
Marsi Hord
Elizabeth Maher
Mikayla Mandell
Jane Mays

Seth McConnell
Rachael Metzger
Andrew Morrow
Vanessa Murphy
Kathryn Ngwenya
Philip Parkison
Danielle Perna
Xavier Rosales
Allison Roudebush
Sabrina Tanner
Steven Tucker
Space Planning and Interior Design of Easter Seals Crossroads

The primary goal of this project was to provide Easter Seals Crossroads with a variety of design choices for the interior of their Indianapolis facility. Students analyzed existing building space, foot traffic patterns, daylight, ergonomics, productivity, and other relevant data when drafting a wide assortment of options for the client.
Space Planning and Interior Design of Ontario Systems, LLC

The primary goal of this project was to provide Ontario Systems, LLC with a variety of design choices for the interior of the Muncie facility. The community partner was able to choose design ideas from one project or gather ideas from multiple projects for implementation.
TEAMwork for Quality Living and Poverty Awareness Year Ambassadors

TEAMwork for Quality Living (TQL), a nonprofit organization located in Muncie, Indiana, in conjunction with 51 local organizations, is promoting 2013 as Poverty Awareness Year. TQL is serving as the project manager in this ambitious initiative. This team of students worked on a variety of programs including a social media campaign, an analysis of outdated job descriptions, a Volunteer Appreciation Kit, a Personal Care Items Drive, event evaluations, and a balloon launch for Child Abuse Awareness month. Students also received Understanding People in Poverty training, participated in community service, and attended Poverty Simulation, and Circles© programs.

EMERGING MEDIA FELLOWS
COMMUNITY PARTNER
TEAMwork for Quality Living (TQL)

FACULTY MENTOR
Peggy Fisher
Department of Communication Studies

STUDENTS
Kristin Blume
Braden Bush
Erin Cooke
David Crull
Shannon Grosenbacher
Jessica Kunce
Alec Lapierre
Nicolle Larson
Molly Lawless
Matt Miller
Jessica Mills
Travis Rauwerdink
Casey Sturgeon
Teresa Trauner
Clark Trexler
Katelyn Waters
Katelyn Wickham
Megan Didier
Simon Hoyer
Russell Shive
Paige Walburn
Olivia Ward
Geoff Wolfe
Brittney Williams

BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES FELLOWS SPRING 2013
Brown County’s pet overpopulation is four times the national average. The population of cats and dogs is a growing problem in Indiana and across the Midwest. The primary cause is animal owners failing to spay or neuter their dogs and cats. The Brown County Humane Society has developed the SPOT Program to combat this issue and to reduce the number of stray animals in Brown County. This outreach program partnered with a low-cost animal clinic to provide education and affordable spay/neuter services to residents. The SPOT Program had already achieved great success in Brown County, but needed promotional videos created in order to increase awareness and to disseminate the program model nationwide.
The Indiana Office of Tourism Development has been working with Ball State University to develop an online travel-motivating video series to showcase on VisitIndiana.com. This program was developed three years ago as part of Building Better Communities. For this semester’s project, the Indiana Glass Trail was chosen. Five different trail assets are featured from around the state. The video was acquired, compiled and edited by students into the final 90-second video product to be used in the Trip Ideas section of VisitIndiana.com.

EMERGING MEDIA FELLOWS
COMMUNITY PARTNER
Indiana Office of Tourism Development

FACULTY MENTOR
Rod Smith
Department of Telecommunications

STUDENTS
Ryan Fernandez
Jeff Holiday
Chris Kosinski
Andrew Mesin
Joe Sailer
Aaron Webster
In collaboration with Indiana Public Radio, student teams developed storylines, collected interviews, wrote scripts, and edited pieces for final broadcast on IPR focusing on the issues of food, farming, and sustainable food systems in East Central Indiana. Given the project’s need for multiple skill sets, students from several disciplines including natural resources, communication studies, journalism, health and nutrition, hospitality, English and anthropology participated. Students interviewed farmers, business owners, residents, and agricultural professionals to enrich and provide authenticity for their stories.
Building Better Communities Fellows projects offer teams of students the opportunity to work with communities, businesses, and government agencies to develop real-world solutions to real-world problems. We call this immersive learning, the hallmark of a Ball State education.

Learn more and get involved today!
765-285-2773 • www.bsu.edu/bbc/fellows
Ball State University practices equal opportunity in education and employment and is strongly and actively committed to diversity within its community.