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 including diverse student recruitment and an expanded list of community partners.

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

As part of their BBC Fellows experience, students receive professional development training in collaboration with the Ball State Career Center. Technical training and support for Emerging Media Fellows projects are provided by the Digital Corps, Emerging Technologies, and Information Technology Services.
Ball Family Documentary
(Emerging Media Fellows)

This project includes a documentary about the Ball brothers, focusing on the Ball Brothers Glass Manufacturing Company. Research for the Ball Brothers Family Documentary included information about family history and philanthropy/business activity in the city of Muncie. Working with the Department of History, the project developers produced a shooting script with interviews, resources, and other materials for the documentary.

Community Partner:
Ball Brothers Foundation

Faculty Mentor:
Chris Flook

Department:
Department of Telecommunications

STUDENTS
Jillian Clark  Brad Dailey  Rachel Hopkins  Daniel Johnson  Chris Kosinski  Olivia Laird  Mark Miller
Ben Redar  Joe Sailer  Nate Tumpaugh  Haley Turk  R. Aaron Webster  Miranda Wuestefeld
Ball State to Broadway (Documentary Project) (Emerging Media Fellows)

This course is part of a three-year (at present) journey documenting the musical, *The Circus In Winter*, as it prepares for its Broadway debut, projected to be in spring 2016. This will require film teams going to the various regional locations (Connecticut, Texas, Illinois, etc.) to video the project as the creative team fine-tunes the production throughout the commercial development process the next few years. 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 itself a 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.

Community Partner:
Ball State University’s *The Circus in Winter*

Faculty Mentor:
Sonny Wingler

Department:
Department of Telecommunications

STUDENTS
James Gartner
Rachel Hardy
Calypso Pickett

Maria Sanchez
Chase Sarten
Sarah Swingley
The Battlefield of Perryville Explored through Visitor Smartphones
(Emerging Media Fellows)

In honor of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, this project team created a phone application using GPS (global positioning system) software that will help visitors to the Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site in Kentucky learn about the history of the park through a walking tour. Visitors will see the park in person but experience enhancement elements/interpretative materials on their phones including maps and images. When they see an interpretive kiosk through their phone, they may activate it and then listen and view audio and visual content about the history of this state park. The tour explores events of the battle, civilian experiences, battlefield clean up and commemoration, women in the Civil War, and the impact of freed men on the battle.
Cinema Entertainment Immersion—Igniting Indiana’s Film Industry
(Emerging Media Fellows)

This project assisted two organizations, Film Indiana and the Indiana Media Production Alliance, in marketing, energizing, and bringing awareness to Indiana’s film industry. The goal of this project was to support these organizations’ efforts by sending five teams of Ball State students to various key locations around the state of Indiana to shoot, direct, and produce short films. The films not only showcased a diverse set of narratives but also unique locations, backdrops, and settings.

Community Partner:
Film Indiana and Indiana Media Production Alliance

Faculty Mentors:
Rod Smith and Sonny Wingler

Department:
Department of Telecommunications

STUDENTS

Adam Allen  Mary Effner  Lucas Pylypczak
Jared Armstrong  Cassandra Eiler  Elias Ralston
Billy Barry  Sam Girten  Heath Schlatter
Maggie Bastin  Alexander Gracie  Daniel Smith
Garret Brubaker  William Grieshop  Jack Smith
Jacob Butler  Alexandra Hegedus  Benjamin Sommers
Luke Butler  Wesley Lorenz  Sarah Swingley
Karina Collins  Mikaela Maranhas  Nathaniel Turnpaugh
Gregory Cox  Austin Mason  James Ulm
Peyton Cox  Alexandra Morgan  Sam Utley
Josh Dean  Nicholas Murhling  Brad Waterman
Daniel Delaney  Nathaniel Powell  Hong Yin
Cold case homicides are difficult and painful for law enforcement and family survivors alike. Such cases can go unsolved for years and even decades. The Muncie Police Department and Ball State immersive learning students worked on selected cold cases from the files of the Muncie Police Department during the spring term of 2014.

A significant problem with the visibility of cold case homicides rests with the staying power of public information about cases and gaining valuable intelligence. This project team worked with Muncie detectives and others on meaningful products intended to assist the homicide unit with cold case homicide visibility.
Community Philanthropy Profiles
(Emerging Media Fellows)

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
Emily Barker
Becca DaVila
Kayla Eiler
Tyler Goudreau

Jeff Holiday
Lauren Kruger-Patchin
Matt Litten
Kayla Sprayue
Michael Webb
Compassion Fatigue: Health Communication Training Can Make a Difference

Many professionals and volunteers in Delaware County are susceptible to Compassion Fatigue. Compassion Fatigue is defined as a combination of secondary traumatization and burnout precipitated by the care delivery that brings people into contact with the suffering. The first community partner, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), presented a unique situation in that the volunteers spend considerable time with the children they are serving and their family members. A unique and intense bond can often be formed. Thus, CASA volunteers are highly prone to compassion fatigue. IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital, the second community partner, served as a resource for the team by sharing its research and methods for assisting its employees. Using the hospital’s program along with the students’ own research, the group developed Compassion Fatigue Toolkits and training for CASA volunteers. The training and items are based on a wellness model relating to compassion fatigue’s spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional components.

Community Partner:
IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital Cancer Center and Delaware County CASA

Faculty Mentor:
Peggy Fisher

Departments:
Department of Communication Studies

STUDENTS
David Cleveland
Aaron Dicker
Faith Kellermeyer

Amanda Simler
Crystal Spicer
Molly Young
Development of a Social Marketing Strategy for an Indianapolis-Based Nonprofit Organization (Emerging Media Fellows)

This project team assisted Little Red Door Cancer Agency, a well-established Indianapolis-area nonprofit that assists patients with cancer, in developing a successful social marketing strategy. This detailed, systematic, theory- and research-based plan for carrying out an effective social marketing campaign focused on an essential risk behavior or related attitude among one or more segments of the target audience. The underlying structure of this plan will serve as a template for future social marketing efforts undertaken by Little Red Door Cancer Agency.

Community Partner:
Little Red Door Cancer Agency Inc.

Faculty Mentor:
Marty Wood

Departments:
Department of Physiology and Health Science

STUDENTS
Allison Anton  Matt Heiligstedt
Brigitte Bastardo  Megan Kaiser
Taylor Edens  Nick Kwiatkowski
Felicia Greer  Madison Rosenberger
Beth Gregory  Jessie Smock
Josselyn Heald  Janette Sykes
This project team researched and designed an iPhone app to maximize individual potential. Students studied two populations of teacher-referred students, gifted and special education, at Burris Laboratory School in order to identify barriers to their academic success. By reviewing current educational and personal management apps on the market, the project team designed its own solution integrated into one app that captures the most critical self-regulation needs identified by the teachers, parents, and students. The resulting product is an educational app that serves as a virtual backpack and student planner designed specifically for twice-exceptional (in this case gifted and learning disabled) middle school student time management and organizational needs. This app, working in tandem with an instructional website, will minimize required resources, instruct students regarding time management and organizational strategies, and enable individualization and self-sufficiency for the entire student body. By incorporating a digital monitoring system, students using the app will develop goal-setting skills necessary for self-regulation and academic achievement.

**Community Partner:**
Burris Laboratory School and Ball State University

**Faculty Mentors:**
Miki Hamstra and Nina Yssel

**Department:**
Department of Special Education and Center for Gifted Studies and Talent Development

**STUDENTS**
Nicholas Balkevicius  
Conner Edwards  
Anna Epperly  
Jiahao Guo  
Annika Miller

Molly Marsh  
Brittany Riddle  
Christine Swintz  
Kelly Wright
Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Reporting with the Indianapolis Airport Authority

The report provided the airport with a benchmark to understand its current sustainability performance and a guide for improvement. Students gained both personally and professionally from this project. Personal objectives included learning about living and working in a sustainable way. They learned to assess and report their own environmental, economic, and social impacts on their community. This knowledge about their personal actions was transferred to the operations at the Indianapolis International Airport. Professional objectives included improved professional communication (written and verbal) skills, expert knowledge of the content of GRI Sustainability Reporting Guidelines, and sustainability report preparation experience.

Community Partner: Indianapolis Airport Authority

Faculty Mentor: Gwendolen White

Department: Department of Accounting

STUDENTS
Farah Alam
Brayden Beyer
Lucas Blair
John Germano
Jessica Hill
Janessa Kahlig
Kristyn Maccagnano
Amrutha Pulikottil
National Institute for Fitness and Sport Corporate Videos
(Emerging Media Fellows)

Students in this project created videos highlighting the benefits of the National Institute for Fitness and Sport’s wellness program. These videos will help NIFS to expand its market research to promote corporate fitness and wellness.

Community Partner:
National Institute for Fitness and Sport

Faculty Mentor:
Alex Kartman

Department:
Department of Telecommunications

STUDENTS
Jonathan Abraham
Kaitlin Armstrong
Azia Bussell
Taylor Edwards
Daniel Fayette
Kyle Frye
Omar Garcia
Aaron Hepp
Lauren McClain
Zachary Miklusak

Ryan Miller
Jordan Moody
Jeremy Peat
Benjamin Sanchez
Alex Seitz
Zhiran Wang
Dillon Welch
Chong Yi
Yue Zhang
Police + The Press
(Emerging Media Fellows)

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 created multimedia feature stories 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.

Community Partner:
Ball State University Police Department

Faculty Mentor:
Adam Kuban

Department:
Department of Journalism

STUDENTS
Crystal Allen
Melanie Blevins
Jacob Burbrink
Dallas Colley
Ashley Hayes
Zach Hughes
Mary McCool
Haylie McCracken
Daniel Parker
Travis Robinson
Joseph Ruley
Paige Southerland
Kaegan Stogsdill
Primacy of Place Video Series
(Emerging Media Fellows)

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. Parks, environmental friendliness, restoration, and other visual improvements are examples of factors necessary for a vibrant community.

Community Partner:
Ball Brothers Foundation

Faculty Mentor:
Chris Flook

Department:
Department of Telecommunications

STUDENTS
Geordan Baker
Sam Courter
Hobie Crase
Shane Dresch
Kathie Green
Neil Hausey
Micah Holtgraves

Olivia Mancha
Colin McNutt
Robbie Mehling
DJ Pulce
Graeme Wilson
Fengyi Yang
The student team worked in partnership with Project Leadership representatives to create a video resource to help students transition to Ball State. Students conducted research, wrote the scripts, performed, filmed, and edited the film for a fun and informative final product. In addition to useful information, they provided a student’s perspective on how to be successful in college.

Community Partners:
Project Leadership (21st Century Scholars Program)

Faculty Mentor:
Melinda Messineo

Department:
Department of Sociology

STUDENTS
Max Baker
Chandler Bateman
Erin Fulkerson
Greta Gegogeine
Annah Humphries
Lauren Jackson
Wesley Jones
Taylor Lockhart
David Nickel
Olivia Poynter
Courtney Scott
Rachel Spudic
Scott Urban
Ashton Wright
Recreational Site Planning for St. Mary School

Students were given the challenge of developing a multistage proposal for facility development and design of outdoor areas of the St. Mary school campus. Students were tasked with proposing alternative designs that could be implemented over a multiyear time frame by the school. These designs were presented to St. Mary school for potential redevelopment of its outdoor areas for the future recreational and educational use.

Community Partners:
St. Mary Catholic School and Pope John Paul II Middle School

Faculty Mentor:
Amy Gregg

Department:
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management

STUDENTS
Aaron Adams
Michael Cooper
Justin Eshelman
Alicia Ferre
Dylan Hayes
Laura Herron

Ian Pantale
Catherine Rash
Jacob Riddle
Daniel Waters
Owen White
Shafer Leadership Academy Program Assessment Project

With nearly 300 graduates from the Emergence Program and nearly 500 total program participants, the Shafer Leadership Academy has made significant progress toward realizing its mission of ensuring that individuals in East Central Indiana have access to a world-class leadership program. To assist the academy in developing its next strategic plan, this project team developed a three-part assessment tool to gather evidence of strengths and opportunities for the academy’s future development.

Community Partner:
Shafer Leadership Academy

Faculty Mentor:
Melinda Messineo

Department:
Department of Sociology

STUDENTS
Max Baker
Chandler Bateman
Erin Fulkerson
Greta Gegogeine
Annah Humphries
Lauren Jackson
Wesley Jones
Taylor Lockhart
David Nickel
Olivia Poynter
Courtney Scott
Rachel Spudic
Scott Urban
Ashton Wright
Vietnam Veterans Memorial: Narratives of Landscape, Space + Meaning
(Emerging Media Fellows)

Dedicated in 1982, Maya Lin’s design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial created an iconic American landscape that has had unprecedented influence on contemporary commemorative design, both nationally and internationally. It is the first modern-era memorial made with the intent “to heal a nation,” and can thus be considered a uniquely inspirational therapeutic landscape. This project focused on two areas: educating the public about contemporary landscape architecture, using the memorial as a dramatic and successful model, and documenting the untold stories of the memorial’s realization in a series of interviews with important contributors. Working in collaboration with key individuals from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and the Cultural Landscape Foundation, and in partnership with Ball State’s Digital Publishing Studio, students created and published visual narratives for use by visitors on site at the memorial in Washington DC.

Community Partner:
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Cultural Landscape Foundation, American Society of Landscape Architects

Faculty Mentors:
Carla Corbin and Martha Hunt

Department:
Department of Landscape Architecture

STUDENTS
Drake D’Ambra
Sara Dreibelbis
Shane Dresch
Spencer Harvey
Brittany Held
Rebekah Hobbs
Chris Kosinski
Kelly Miller
Kristina Powell
Zack Rees
Meghan Reidy
Wes Rogers
Lauren Sherwood
Kayla Sprayue
Jacob Stachler
Andrew Steingass
Brandon Tomlins
Anna Wiegand
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.