Ball State University has a longstanding record of dedicating faculty, student, and financial resources to improve quality of life in communities across the state of Indiana. Our efforts were officially recognized in 2015 with the elective Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

As an anchor institution in our region and state, Ball State University is committed to establishing and nurturing collaboration between faculty, students, and community partners to address society’s most pressing needs in a reciprocal and mutually beneficial way. When successful, these partnerships result in valuable learning experiences, research, and solutions for everyone involved.

Under the leadership of Julie Halbig, Vice President for Government Relations and Community Engagement, a new infrastructure has been developed to best respond to the top needs of our region and state while emphasizing creativity and nurtured risk – the hallmarks of entrepreneurial learning.

LOCAL/REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Office of Community Engagement
Delaina Boyd, Director
dboyd@bsu.edu, 765-285-2773

The Office of Community Engagement (formerly known as Building Better Communities) is Ball State’s front door for community partnerships, connecting the university with challenges and priorities beyond campus with an emphasis on Muncie, Delaware County, and East Central Indiana. We aim to coordinate mutually-beneficial partnerships, calculate the impact of our collaborative work, catalyze a culture of creativity, collaboration, and social responsibility, and celebrate successes both on and off-campus.

Building Better Neighborhoods Initiative
Heather Williams, Director
hlwilliams@bsu.edu, 765-717-9198

Funded by a three-year, $200,000 grant from the Ball Brothers Foundation, the Building Better Neighborhoods Initiative provides coordinated expertise and resources from Ball State to support neighborhood development efforts through the Muncie Action Plan and Delaware County’s Vision 2016 economic development plan.
The Northeast Indiana Area Health Education Center (NEI-AHEC) promotes access to high quality, culturally competent health care through academic-community partnerships. The NEI-AHEC serves rural and underserved communities in 17 counties in northeast and east central Indiana by assisting in the training of health professionals; providing continuing education for health care providers; recruiting students into health professions; and distributing health information to improve the quality of health care.

The E.B. Ball Center provides a variety of non-credit cultural and educational programs and opportunities for the East Central Indiana region. The Center's best-known programs include its Town and Gown Series, several colloquia, and various enrichment programs and activities. The Center is adjacent to the Minnetrista Cultural Center.

STATEWIDE ENGAGEMENT

The Government Relations team represents the priorities of Ball State's students, faculty, staff, and alumni to state-elected officials. The unit also is responsible for working on policy initiatives with the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE).

The Indiana Communities Institute addresses the modern challenges of economic development through community-based strategies for sustainable growth. Our research-policy-practice framework allows the Institute to tap into talent and resources from across campus for our work with partner communities.

The Center for Community Economic Development serves the "practice" role in the Indiana Communities Institute's research-policy-practice framework to help communities apply grounded concepts and processes for effective vision, planning, assessment, and knowledge dissemination. Education and training programs in community and economic development are offered through the year.

The RUPRI Center for State Policy focuses on public policy pertaining to rural community growth. The center acts as the "policy" arm of the Indiana Community Institute's research-policy-practice framework for modern, sustainable economic development.

The Indianapolis Center, located in the heart of downtown Indianapolis, and the Fishers Center, located in suburban Fishers, host formal credit courses and a variety of social, business and educational programs. These Centers represent a direct portal through which Ball State can connect to virtually all sectors of the state's capital city.

Through immersive learning projects, students tackle on-site challenges with community partners under the guidance of a faculty mentor. Immersive learning staff provides connections to community organizations, project management services, and technology support. They also conduct professional development training programs for faculty and students.