

# CREATIVE COMMUNITIES: HOW THE IU CENTER FOR RURAL ENGAGEMENT HELPS COMMUNITIES ENHANCE QUALITY OF PLACE

---

*Kerry Thomson, Indiana University Center for Rural Engagement*

*Ed Comentale, Indiana University Arts & Humanities Council*

*Tara Kritzer, Washington County Chamber of Commerce*





# Beyond the Gates

INDIANA UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR RURAL ENGAGEMENT

# IU Center for Rural Engagement:

## Connecting a world-class university to the challenges of rural Hoosier communities

- Our **mission** is to partner with rural communities to improve Hoosier lives.
- Our **vision** is to serve as a 21<sup>st</sup> century model for connecting the distinctive resources of a comprehensive flagship research and teaching university and the needs and future of the state's rural citizens and communities.
- Our **values** include collaboration, partnership, trust, community focus, sustained involvement, and accessibility.



## Beyond the Gates: What We Do

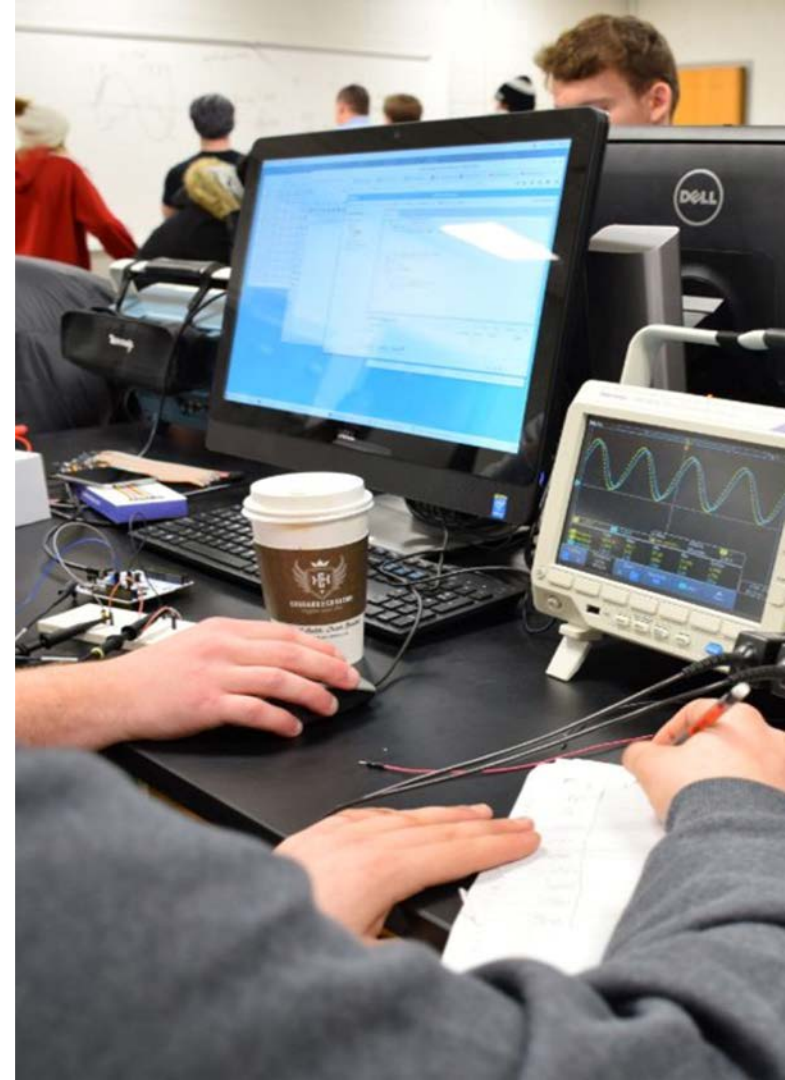
- Applied Research, Community-Engaged Teaching, and Student Service Engagement
- In Six Focus Areas
- In Hoosier Rural Communities





## Focus Areas

- **Healthy Hoosier Communities**
- **Resilient Hoosier Communities**
- **Hoosier Quality of Place**
- *Hoosier Educational Attainment*
- *Thriving Hoosier Communities*
- *Capacity Building and Leadership Development*



# Hoosier Quality of Place



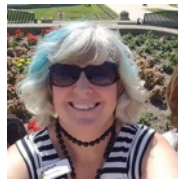
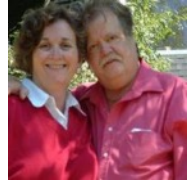
INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON

# Goals: Quality of Place

1. Develop a replicable, collaborative rural regional housing planning process and model, launching the first plan by 2020 that will create 3,500 new housing units for varied income levels for the counties of Monroe, Owen, Greene, Orange, and Lawrence. Replicate the planning process with two other regional areas by 2023.
2. Drawing on IU Bloomington's considerable strengths in the arts and humanities, design and test a scalable, replicable and sustainable process to build community capacity for social and cultural capital in at least three rural Indiana communities in order to build sense of place and enhance the ability of rural communities to grow and thrive.
3. Working with three communities, create a comprehensive community development plan which includes activities and public places for interaction, downtown revitalization, diversified housing plans, broadband, and access to health care.



# Listening Tour





# Common Regional Issues

Communications

Transportation

Jobs and Economy

Connections to IU

Resources and Capacity



# New horizons through the arts



Visualization

Storytelling

Movement

Materials/Resources

Community



# Three wonderful towns



Huntingburg



Salem



Nashville



# Arts and culture infrastructure

- Rural Arts Series
- Artist Exchanges and Residencies
- Arts Administration Projects
- Grants and Corporate Support





A group of approximately 15 people are seated in a circle in a modern art gallery. They are engaged in a discussion or meeting. The gallery features several large-scale artworks: a colorful, abstract sculpture made of fabric or paper in the center, a large abstract painting on the left wall, and a grid of small, framed images on the right wall. The room has white walls, a polished floor, and track lighting on the ceiling.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

# Quality of Place Strategy

The School of Public and Environmental Affairs Arts Administration master's program is collaborating with three rural communities and their leaders to develop strategic plans addressing the communities' unique opportunities and challenges related to arts programming and quality of place.

# Community-Engaged Teaching



Media

**Sustaining  
Hoosier  
Communities**

Social Work



Informatics,  
Computing,  
and  
Engineering



**SPEA  
Connect**

Public and  
Environmental  
Affairs

Nursing

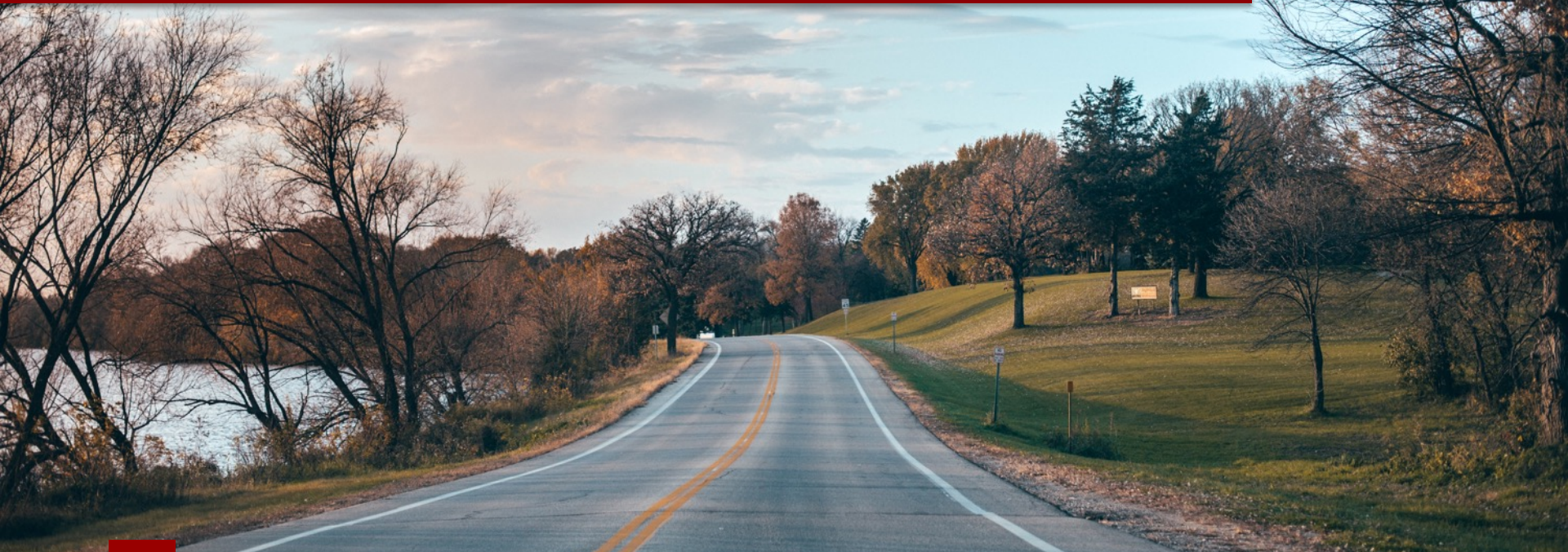
Arts and  
Sciences

Public  
Health

Business



# Sustaining Hoosier Communities — Largest Rural University Teaching Partnership in Nation



INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON

# Sustaining Hoosier Communities Lawrence County

**20 classes; 14 projects; 15 faculty; 550 students**

## **Art, Architecture & Design**

Bedford Shared Work Space

Bedford and Mitchell City Gates design

Indiana Limestone Company incubator office

## **Biology and Public Health**

What Moves You, Mitchell?

## **Informatics, Computing, and Engineering**

Gus Grissom Trail Monitoring App

Hoosier National Forest Dark Skies designation

## **Law**

Legal Needs Assessment in Lawrence County

## **Media**

Bedford Diversity Council

## **Public Health**

Avoca Fish Hatchery plan

Youth Financial Literacy Program

Mitchell and Bedford Community Gardens

## **SPEA**

Complete Streets initiative

Hwy 50 Bypass Scoping Study

Little Theatre of Bedford





# Sustaining Hoosier Communities Orange County



INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON

# Sustaining Hoosier Communities Orange County

**26 classes; 28 projects; 23 faculty; 350+ students**

## **Art, Architecture & Design**

Accessible Playgrounds  
Artist Residency  
HandUp OC  
Orange County Recycling Co-Op  
Sustainable Homes in Rural Indiana

## **Biology and Public Health**

Community Garden Programming  
Health Promotion

## **Business**

Orange County Recycling Co-Op  
Strategic Planning  
Solar Power Cooperative

## **Geography**

4H Fairgrounds Location Analysis

## **Informatics, Computing, and Engineering**

Dark Sky Designation  
Community Arts Network  
Community Wellness Network  
Community Health IT

## **Media**

Complete Streets Readiness  
Solar Eclipse Tourism Readiness  
Lost River Market and Deli Co-Op  
Habitat for Humanity

Agritourism Readiness

## **Nursing**

Addressing Chronic Illness

## **Political and Civic Engagement**

Orange County: A Rural History

## **Public Affairs**

Nonprofit Human Resources  
HandUp OC Strategic Planning  
Health Coalition Grants

## **Sociology**

Obstetrics Data and Research



# Student Engagement IU Corps



**Civic  
Engagement**

**Fairview  
Violin Project**

**Serve: Design**

**Kelley  
Institute for  
Social Impact**

**Promoting  
Healthy  
Populations  
Practicum**

**Alternative  
Spring Break**

**Serve IT**

# IU Rural Conference

**May 13 and 14, French Lick Springs Resort**

Day One: Taking Action for a Healthier Indiana

Day Two: Collaborating for a Stronger Indiana

Enjoy breakout sessions, keynotes from state leaders, training opportunities, and roundtable discussions on topics important to rural Indiana residents





# Thank you



**INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON**  
FULFILLING *the* PROMISE



**INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON**  
FULFILLING *the* PROMISE

# WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

---

Share your thoughts on this session  
using the feedback surveys.

*Thank you!*



# STAY CONNECTED

## [roi.rendezville.com](http://roi.rendezville.com)

---

**Presenter bios, website links,  
social media links, and more!**

