

Appendix

Additional Information Provided by Program

Other Exemplary Practices – Ball State University

My Community, My Vision Program: Commencing in July 2014 and now in its third year, the Department has received state, university, and private funding for a youth leadership in planning program called “My Community, My Vision.” This program has received national recognition by way of a panel discussion held at the 2016 APA conference in Phoenix and Indiana recognition as the awardee of a 2016 Bicentennial Legacy Project, representing outstanding “Hoosier values” of community building and interpersonal support. Professor Bruce Frankel is the PI, project manager and co-founder with Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority Executive Director Jacob Sipe. The continuing project has the enthusiastic support of the lieutenant governor, and its awardees enjoy bonus points for their participation in the form of state grants and other forms of community and economic development assistance.

Communities throughout the state assemble interested high school students to apply in September for participation in the program each academic year, and the IHCD program managers select five communities [last year six] as awardees, which conveys a \$500 cash prize. The awarded communities through these youths then participate as a steering committee for the rest of the academic year in a 5-10 year strategic community plan focused on the attractions to young households and adolescents and highly inclusive of stakeholders who may modify and endorse the plan. The Department selects both graduate and undergraduate students to mentor these high school students, and the sponsors provide each with tuition remission and a stipend. Annually Prof. Frankel reformulates the curriculum, and he and the mentors evaluate the program for improvement. Weekly, the mentors, IHCD staff and Dr. Frankel meet to review progress and address issues, and weekly students meet with their BSU mentors. There are four common meetings involving all communities, with a final plan presentation before the lieutenant governor, members of the general assembly and local elected officials in April.

The impacts are in recruitment to our BUPD program and eventually the planning profession, the mitigation of the “brain drain” from Indiana, and especially its small towns, the instillation of interest and appreciation for planning and civic affairs, and the improvement of communities. Students are accorded the roles of stakeholders and client and BSU mentors the roles of instructor and consultant, advancing their understanding of planning. In 2016, Muncie adopted the plan crafted by its high school students. Anderson high school students were featured on a local radio program where they talked about writing their plan. And the research gathered by My Community, My Vision in Rushville helped that community secure an \$18 million Stellar Communities grant from the state.

Links to plans evolving from this project are available here: <https://secure.in.gov/myihcda/mcmv.htm>