

CREATE's Summer Civics Learning Academy

CREATE's Summer Civic Learning Academy (SCLA) is open to MCS secondary teachers. In-person events will be held from June 5 to June 15 from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm at the Ball State University Student Center. Both Fridays, June 6th and June 16th, will be reserved to allow teachers to individually explore related themes and topics. The SCLA will include a pre- and post-orientation webinar. Teachers will develop an action plan and lesson plans related to their specific content areas.

Sessions will be held at the Ball State University Student Center. Meals and resources are included. The SCLA is a paid professional development opportunity. All participating teachers will receive a \$3,500 stipend and 32 Professional Growth Points.



Bibi Bahrami

Mrs. Bahrami was born and raised in Behsood, Afghanistan. In 1986, she came to Muncie as a refugee to join her husband, Dr. Saber Bahrami, and they raised 6 beautiful children. They both have been active in the community for over 36 years. After learning English and earning her GED, Bibi received an art degree from Ball State University. In 2002, she founded the nonprofit organization AWAKEN (Afghan Women's And Kids' Education & Necessities) to assist Afghan women and children with education and health care. In 2022, she founded MARRC (Muncie Afghan Refugee Resettlement Committee), a sub-committee of AWAKEN, to assist with the resettlement of 137 Afghan refugees in Muncie. She is the recipient of numerous awards for her charitable work, including the Indiana Women of Achievement Award and Ball State's International Development

Award. In 2023, she was the subject of the Academy Award-nominated short documentary *Stranger at the Gate*, illustrating the strength of kindness in changing lives.



Jill Bradley-Levine

Dr. Jill Bradley-Levine (Director of Leadership and Curriculum) is an Associate Professor of educational studies in Ball State's Department of Educational Studies. Her scholarship focuses on curriculum development, instructional leadership, and critical teacher leadership. She earned her Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies with a concentration in leadership from Indiana University, Bloomington in 2008. She is a former English language arts teacher and literacy coordinator, with experience teaching in secondary schools in Indiana and England. For 14 years, she has worked with school leaders and teachers to support project-based learning.



James Connolly

Dr. James Connolly is George and Frances Ball Distinguished Professor of History and the Director of the Center for Middletown Studies. He received his Ph.D. in the History of American Civilization from Brandeis University in 1995 and came to Ball State in 1996. His scholarship examines American urban history, including city politics, the development of smaller cities, print culture, and the transition from industrial to postindustrial life in the American Rust Belt. He has written or edited seven books and numerous articles and essays. Dr. Connolly has received a Fulbright Scholar Award (Free University Berlin) and research grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, and several private foundations. He also has helped produce several digital humanities projects. Dr. Connolly teaches

courses on the history of American cities, reform during the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, immigration history, and the history of democracy in the U.S.



Chuck Dunlap

Mr. Dunlap is the President & CEO of the Indiana Bar Foundation in Indianapolis, Indiana. Mr. Dunlap graduated from Indiana University's McKinney School of Law. Mr. Dunlap is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations and programs of the Foundation, including administration of the Indiana Interest on Lawyers' Trust Account (IOLTA) program, the Indiana Civil Legal Aid Fund, a housing stability program funded by the federal Emergency Rental Assistance program, and several civic education programs that include We the People and the Indiana High School Mock Trial Program.

Mr. Dunlap is a member of the National Advisory Committee for the Indiana University Center for Civic Literacy and a board member of the National High School Mock Trial Championship.



Kate Elliott

BSU Lecturer Kate H. Elliott coordinates the School of Journalism and Strategic Communication's Magazine Media concentration and chairs the College of Communication, Information, and Media (CCIM) Engagement Task Force. From 2018-2020, Elliott supported Ball State's historic partnership with Muncie Community Schools (MCS) as a faculty fellow to the provost. Alongside teachers, administrators, and community partners, Elliott is working to realize a holistic educational system that nurtures student success and community well-being. She continues to serve MCS as a member of the MCS-Ball State Academic Innovation Council. She teaches Media & Society and courses within the Magazine Media concentration. Committed to community-focused storytelling, she guided a team of student journalists in profiling farmers, nonprofit leaders, and residents in food deserts as well as a team supporting ecoREHAB, a Muncie nonprofit that transforms abandoned properties into

energy-efficient homes for residents in need.



Jennifer Erickson

Jennifer Erickson is a Professor of Anthropology, Assistant Director of the Center for Middletown Studies, and co-President of the American Association of University Professors chapter at Ball State. Her research encompasses refugee resettlement, race, citizenship, feminism, and urban anthropology. Her first book [Race-ing Fargo: Refugees, Citizenship, and the Transformation of Small Cities](#) addresses how different organizations and groups of new Americans (refugees) work together and against one another to gain access to social citizenship in Fargo, North Dakota, and how race, ethnicity, religion, gender, and sociality shape everyday citizenship practices. She also works in Bosnia-Herzegovina on topics related to gendered violence, ethnonationalism, post-socialism, post-war neoliberalism, and urban ethnography.



Sue Errington

State Representative Sue Errington served on the Delaware County Council and in the Indiana State Senate before her first election to the Indiana House of Representatives in 2012. Errington currently serves as the ranking minority member of the Environmental Affairs Committee. She also is a member of the Elections and Apportionment Committee and serves as vice chair of the Statutory Committee on Ethics. A long-time proponent of women's rights and good government, Errington serves on the board of directors of Muncie OUTreach, the Land Conservation Fund Advisory Committee of the Muncie-Delaware County Community Foundation, the Delaware County Meth Health and Home Coalition, the Delaware County Tobacco Free Coalition, the Muncie/Delaware County Coalition of Women's Organizations, and the board of directors of the Second Harvest Food Bank. She also is a member of the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators (NCEL) and is

a member of the Recycling Advisory Committee of the Muncie Sanitary Board. She taught Spanish and later served 17 years as the Public Policy Director for Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky. Errington lives in Muncie. She and her late husband, Paul, have two married daughters and two grandchildren.



Melissa Gentry

Melissa Gentry is the Supervisor of the Ball State University Libraries GIS Research and Map Collection. She provides instructional sessions and programs and curates special exhibits and creates custom maps and open education resources for use in K-12 and college classroom projects, including distance-and home-school learning. She is a member of the board of the Delaware County Historical Society, a University Coordinator of the Notable Women of Muncie and Delaware County, and a member of the American Association of University Women and the League of Women Voters. She has presented programs at the Indiana Association of Historians, the National Council on Public History, the *In Her Own Right* Symposium with the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries, the Indiana Historical Bureau, the Indiana League of Women Voters Annual Meeting, and the Midwestern History Conference. She also provided a tutorial session on creating online maps for the Muncie Schools Education Innovation Summit.

**Eric Grim**

Eric Grim has worked with Muncie Community Schools for over 25 years in many different roles. He is the Director of Secondary Education and previously served as Principal at Northside Middle School. Eric attended Ball State University for his graduate and undergraduate degrees. His beautiful wife of 21 years, Jennifer, is a teacher for New Castle Schools and a Ball State graduate. They have two children: Garrett will attend Ball State in the fall and major in computer science, and Rebekah, a sophomore in high school.

**Kenneth Holland**

Dr. Kenneth Holland earned a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Chicago and a Master's degree in Government from the University of Virginia. He is a scholar of U.S.-Pakistan relations and Pakistan's democratic transition and President Emeritus of the American University of Afghanistan. He was awarded Fulbright opportunities to Tohoku University in Sendai, Japan, Yangon School of Political Science in Myanmar, the Australian National University, and the University of Iowa. Dr. Holland has managed higher education development projects funded by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, U.S. Department of State, and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Russia, Mongolia, Myanmar, and Cambodia. He is a specialist in reforming universities in countries influenced by the Soviet model of higher education.

**Tim Kalgreen**

Tim has been the Director of Civic Education for the Indiana Bar Foundation since August 2019. His team puts together programs and professional developments for teachers and students around the state to help them learn civics content and activities. Tim also manages relationships with other organizations, schools, and businesses to advance policies and initiatives related to civic education. Before joining the Indiana Bar Foundation, Tim worked as a program coordinator at the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education for 12 years, conducting similar civic education programming for Ohio. He graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor's degree in history and a Master's degree in education.

**Holly Korbey**

Holly Korbey is an education journalist and the author of *Building Better Citizens*. Her work has appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Boston Globe, The Atlantic, and many more. She is a regular contributor to education to Edutopia and KQED's Mindshift. She lives in Nashville with her family.



Anand Marri

Dr. Anand R. Marri is the acting Provost of Ball State University. He previously served as Dean of Ball State University's Teachers College since 2020. He led more than 220 faculty (tenured, tenure-eligible, and contract), 100 staff members, and 5,000 undergraduate, master's, and doctoral students. Dr. Marri's academic research focuses on economic literacy, civic and multicultural education, teacher education, and urban education. He has been awarded more than \$6.5 million in grant awards from funders including the Spencer Foundation, the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, the New York State Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Education, Ball State Teachers College, Columbia University Trustee Joyce Cowin, and the Teagle Foundation. As CREATE's Co-PI, Dr. Marri ensures project fidelity by meeting regularly with the PI Dr David Roof, and communicating with Ball State's upper administration.



Elizabeth Osborn

Dr. Elizabeth Osborn is the Director of Education at the Indiana University Center on Representative Government. She is a part of the team that created the award-winning free civics interactives Engaging Congress, Freedom Summer 1964, CitizIN, and the Center's latest project, Action Citizen. Dr. Osborn is responsible for the Center's curriculum development, is the primary facilitator/presenter at workshops, and presents regularly at conferences. Dr. Osborn received her Ph.D. in U.S. History from Indiana University in 2004. Before joining the Center, she was the creator of the Indiana Supreme Court's nationally recognized educational outreach program "Courts in the Classroom." She taught at several Indiana University campuses in Bloomington, Columbus, and Indianapolis and taught high school social studies in Honolulu, Hawaii.



Reza Paikar

Reza Paikar began his career as a lecturer at Samangan State University, Afghanistan. He earned his M.Sc. from Ruhr University Bochum in management and economics. During his career at Samangan State University, he worked as the dean of the economic faculty for more than five years. As a recipient of the prestigious Institute of International Education's Scholar Rescue Fund (IIE-SRF), he currently works as a fellow for educational economics at Ball State University's Teachers College.



Dan Ridenour

Dan Ridenour built a highly successful 30-year banking and finance career before feeling called to help the City of Muncie work its way out of an impending financial disaster. He served for four years on Muncie's City Council and was elected Mayor in 2019. He is passionate about community service and has actively supported organizations to help children to prepare for Kindergarten, seniors repair their homes, and high school students excel. He is the author of three books on personal financial literacy, an IRONMAN 70.3 finisher and long-distance runner, and a 42-year Pacers season ticket holder. He and his wife Sherry have four children and four grandchildren.



Sherry Riggin

Riggin grew up in Hamilton Township and moved south of Riggin Road to Muncie when she purchased her first home, now her rental property. She was involved in her family business, then began working in the Delaware County Auditor's Office and learning how local government works. Riggin was elected Commissioner in 2012 and now is serving her 3rd term. She is passionate about doing the job to the best of her ability and serving members of the public who need her service. In her spare time, she enjoys being a Master Gardener and a Rotarian.



David Roof

Dr. David J. Roof began his career as a teacher, earning his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in Educational Policy Studies. He currently oversees the Center for Economic and Civic Learning (CECL) and is an Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Studies. Dr. Roof is the Principal Investigator of the CREATE project (Civic Renewal through Education for Agency, Tolerance, and Engagement), an innovative approach to instruction, student learning in civics, that integrates American history, geography, government, and media literacy funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Roof is a frequent keynote speaker and serves on the editorial board of several journals. He also has run several large projects for the U.S. Department of State and is on the Board of Trustees for the American Institute of Pakistan Studies. He has worked for many years as a consultant for the U.S. Department of Education.



Stephanie Serriere

Dr. Stephanie Serriere is a Professor of Education at IUPU-Columbus and a faculty member of IU's Political and Civic Engagement (PACE) program. She supports youth in engagement as participatory citizens, well before they reach voting age. She also has been a teacher in Italy and India and seeks to bring her classroom research on youth civic engagement into her teaching. She has published over 30 peer-reviewed research articles and one book on youth civic engagement.



Drew Shermeta

Drew Shermeta has taught Social Studies at Muncie Central High School for the last eight years, mostly in senior Economics courses and freshman World History courses. Before joining the staff at MCHS, he worked at a variety of community organizations around Muncie and spent eight years teaching at high schools in North Carolina and Georgia. He completed a Master's program at Ball State University in Curriculum and Educational Technology in 2021 and did his undergraduate work at Wake Forest University.



Julie Snider

Julie Snider has spent the past 26 years teaching government in Muncie Community Schools, primarily focusing on civic participation and responsibility. She ran for State Representative in 2020 and learned a great deal about the workings of state government in the process. Snider has been married for 34 years and has three beautiful grown children and two wonderful grandsons.



Trygve Throntveit

Trained as a historian of American political thought, American political development, and U.S. foreign policy, Dr. Throntveit writes and teaches about diverse conceptions of democracy. His work has expanded to include organizing diverse citizens to enhance democracy through commons-building work across differences. Throntveit also co-organized and led the Ramsey County Civic Project, which facilitates discussions of controversial topics in productive ways. Throntveit co-leads the Teagle-funded project "Third Way Civics: Preparing Undergraduates for Lives of Moral Integrity and Public Purpose," an effort to help undergraduates build the foundations of a civic identity that is values-based but pluralistic, action-oriented but non-polarizing. Throntveit has served as the Director of Strategic Partnership at the Minnesota Humanities Center, Director and Co-Founder of the Institute for Public Life

and Work, and Global Fellow for History and Public Policy at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

**Sarah Vitale**

Dr. Sarah E. Vitale is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Ball State University. She received her Ph.D. in Philosophy from Villanova University in May 2014. At Ball State, she teaches Introduction to Philosophy as well as classes on contemporary philosophy. She is the recipient of the 2020 Lawhead Teaching Award in General Education, advisor to the Philosophy Club, and director and founder of the precollege Philosophy Outreach Project. Vitale also is engaged in the Muncie community. She is a member of the League of Women Voters of Muncie and Delaware County and the recipient of the 2019 Delaware County Mentor of the Year award from Project Leadership.

**John West**

John West has an extensive background in urban planning history and theory, land banking, tenant rights, low-income housing policy research, and program evaluation. His theoretical interest is in how ideas, technology, and local political action shape urban citizenship. An engaged teacher-scholar, West is the founding chair of the Muncie Land Bank, a planning agency that addresses property abandonment. He and his students have partnered with non-profits to create The Renter's Book, an extensive collection of information, sample forms, and procedural steps to help renters understand their rights and advocate for their interests. They also spearheaded the creation of the state's first landlord-tenant mediation program through partnerships with the Delaware County courts and others.

**Sherry Wolfe**

Sherry has a BA in Management Studies from National Louis University and an MEd in Elementary Education with a concentration in Montessori from the Loyola University of Baltimore. She is a certified mediator and has led elementary children (grades 3-6) as peer mediators in two schools. She served as a mediator for private school management, and the Montgomery County Human Relations Commission in Maryland, and is a parent educator and coach using the Redirecting Children's Behavior model developed by Kathryn Kvolcs. Sherry trained in Restorative Practice and Restorative Justice in California and Indiana. She is a member of the Recovery Café Muncie, leading classes there on Restorative Practice and Writing the Hero's Journey. She currently leads a class for clients in recovery from substance use disorder at another location.

**Denise Millben Williams**

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Denise is married to Pastor S. Michael Millben. They moved to Muncie with their family in 1985 for a ministry assignment. Denise has taught and administrated for many years in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Muncie Community Schools, and a private school. Her passion is working with children and watching them grow and develop into contributing adults. She has traveled extensively throughout the United States and internationally as a speaker and educational trainer and is engaged in a project to build a much-needed school in Liberia, West Africa. Denise has been a professional development presenter for teachers, a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), a Human Rights Commissioner, and currently serves as the Executive Director of Motivate Our Minds.