



SUSTAINING **HOOSIER** **COMMUNITIES**

A Guide for Faculty



CENTER FOR
RURAL ENGAGEMENT

helping **Indiana thrive**

This guide describes the role of faculty in Sustaining Hoosier Communities. As a strong partner and dedicated neighbor, faculty collaborate with community leaders and students to develop deliverables to address community-identified issues and to suggest next steps for opportunities.

Who is this guide for?

This guide is for faculty who are new to community engagement and for those who are veterans. Unique among community engagement initiatives, Sustaining Hoosier Communities is scaled for impact, focusing faculty on student attention to one county throughout each year.

In this guide, you will learn . . .

- about Sustaining Hoosier Communities
- its collaborative impact
- how to engage in the initiative
- what resources are available to support your participation



A trailhead in Orange County, Indiana that leads to the Lick Creek African American Settlement. Students will feature the settlement in a new project, *Orange County: A Rural History*.

What is **Sustaining Hoosier Communities?**

Sustaining Hoosier Communities forges partnerships with local communities and IU faculty, students, and staff to enrich the health, prosperity, and vitality of the region.

The program uses the community engagement model championed by the Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Community Network (EPIC-N), which universities across the nation have adopted.

Lawrence County, IN

In partnership with Sustaining Hoosier Communities, Lawrence County identified projects that intersected with a variety of disciplines and served a host of the community's needs. Over the 2017–2018 academic year, 550 students mentored by 16 faculty from eight different IU schools gathered information, analyzed data, crafted designs, developed reports, and presented findings on 14 community-identified projects.



Transformative Partnerships

The impact of Sustaining Hoosier Communities hinges on transformative partnerships. Faculty, students, and communities all benefit from engagement.

FACULTY

benefit from new relationships with communities; connections to other faculty doing community engagement; student learning outcomes from community engagement; motivated and talented students; logistical and administrative support; and future research and publication opportunities.

STUDENTS

benefit from applying their knowledge to real-world opportunities and issues; developing transferable skills; gaining professional experience; and building relationships with local community leaders.

COMMUNITIES

benefit from hours of faculty and student attention to locally identified opportunities and issues; connections to services and resources at IU; ongoing relationships with experienced professionals; and the excitement and energy in the community and media about projects.



I get to take what I learn in the classroom, and I get to apply that to a local, rural Indiana town and hopefully make a difference.”

- Daisy Heath,

Student in Sustaining Hoosier Communities



The dome at West Baden Resort in Orange County, Indiana. The historic venue is an anchor for the county's tourism industry. Projects will leverage the region's strengths to invigorate vitality.

The Process

Sustaining Hoosier Communities projects are developed and implemented in a program that spans two years.



Once a community has built its list of opportunities and issues, Sustaining Hoosier Communities staff reach out to faculty with a range of available projects. For their role in the overall program, faculty follow a process that consists of three phases: project development, project implementation, and project resolution.

1. In the planning phase, faculty develop their project by identifying which project best aligns with their course objectives, establishing their scope of work for the project in cooperation with their community partner and Sustaining Hoosier Communities staff, and arranging logistics for their courses.
2. During the semester of the course, faculty, students, and community partners collaborate to implement the project and present the anticipated deliverables.
3. In the final phase, faculty share feedback about their experience with Sustaining Hoosier Communities staff and consider opportunities for continuing their collaboration with community partners.

Phase 1: Project Preparation	
<p>Course Matching</p> <p>Faculty review the community partners' project proposals online and in workshops. Faculty match with projects that align well with their course objectives.</p>	Spring
<p>Scopes of Work</p> <p>Faculty, community partners, and SHC staff develop a scope of work for each project that explains and formalizes the working relationship between the faculty, community partners, and SHC staff. The scope of work also serves as a foundation for the SHC final report.</p>	Summer
<p>Course Logistics</p> <p>Faculty and SHC staff arrange opportunities for students to complete the media consent form, waiver of liability, student driver registration, and SHC pre-assessment.</p>	August (January)
<p>Transportation Requests</p> <p>Faculty begin requesting transportation for their class to visit the community.</p>	August (January)
Phase 2: Project Implementation	
<p>Launch Event</p> <p>Faculty are encouraged to attend the SHC Launch Event in the community with their students, where IU and community representatives preview the SHC projects.</p>	August
<p>Mid-semester Check-in</p> <p>SHC staff reach out to faculty and community partners to assess the process and progress of the collaboration.</p>	October (March)
<p>Presentation of Deliverables</p> <p>Faculty and SHC staff arrange opportunities for students to complete the media consent form, waiver of liability, student driver registration, and SHC pre-assessment.</p>	December (April/May)
Phase 3: Project Resolution	
<p>Assessment</p> <p>Faculty and SHC staff arrange opportunities for students to complete the SHC post-assessment. Faculty also share feedback regarding their experience with SHC staff.</p>	December (May)
<p>Sustainability</p> <p>Faculty, community partners, and SHC staff consider if continued collaboration is desirable and how to support such collaboration through the Center for Rural Engagement or other structures.</p>	December (May)
<p>Celebration Event</p> <p>Faculty are encouraged to attend the SHC Celebration Event in the community with their students, where IU and community representatives will review the SHC projects of the year.</p>	May

*Months listed in parenthesis indicate the time line for courses in the spring semester, rather than the fall semester.



Faculty Responsibilities

LEAD

your class through the steps of the Sustaining Hoosier Communities process.

BUILD

your relationship with the community and your community partners.

LEVERAGE

your resources to produce impactful projects and meaningful experiences.

ENGAGE

your community partner with regular communication and in-person visits.

SUSTAIN

your collaboration with Sustaining Hoosier Communities and your community partners.

SHARE

your success with others at IU and in the community, online, and in the press.

Support

Sustaining Hoosier Communities offers resources and support as you collaborate with communities, such as:

- Facilitating development and fulfillment of the scope of work via periodic check-ins and engaging partners in discussion about progress and collaboration
- Locating data and metrics pertinent to your project
- Arranging logistics for meetings and visits in the community or at IU, such as transportation, parking, and meeting room reservations
- Coordinating external communications, including with media relations, as well as collecting and retaining media consent forms from students and community members
- Providing presentations on Sustaining Hoosier Communities and the Center for Rural Engagement to classes or community organizations
- Attending events to document, promote, and support students' efforts in the community
- Conducting assessment of partners' and participants' experiences during the engagement
- Requesting, collecting, and compiling information for the community final report

Reach Out

There are abundant opportunities to explore partnerships and Sustaining Hoosier Communities staff are ready to offer support.

Email: iushc@indiana.edu

Web: shc.indiana.edu



CENTER FOR
RURAL ENGAGEMENT

Sustaining Hoosier Communities is an initiative of the Center for Rural Engagement, which connects the broad resources of IU Bloomington and its region through collaborative initiatives. The goal of the center is to improve the lives of Hoosiers through its work with partners to discover and deploy scalable and flexible solutions to common challenges facing rural communities. The center will connect with communities to build upon their many opportunities and assets, such as the natural beauty of the region; their family-friendly culture; and their many economic resources.

