



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Ball State IUPUI Faculty Chosen to Lead a Community Engagement Cohort**



INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Dr. Kiesha Warren-Gordon, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and Criminology, and the Program Coordinator for the Minor in African American Studies at Ball State University, has been awarded the Senior Faculty Fellowship from Indiana Campus Compact, a partnership of higher education intuitions that prepares college students to advance the public good. By serving as Senior Fellow for three years, Dr. Warren-Gordon is able to ensure that there is a common thread connecting each cohort of Faculty Fellows. The Senior Fellowship includes funding to support Dr. Warren-Gordon’s high-impact teaching, research, and engagement practices.

She will peer mentor fellow faculty from across Indiana in the practice of the scholarship of engagement, and provide leadership as they collaborate on a group project, and work on their own, individual projects. Her own individual project is *Better Together*, a long-term project in which Dr. Warren-Gordon will continue her collaboration with the Muncie, IN Whitley neighborhood where she and leaders from the Whitley Community Council, President Frank Scott and Executive Director Ken Hudson, are building authentic community-campus relationships. Each year, the collaboration will focus on a different community-identified issue that will be addressed through listening to and learning from community members and local agencies. This year’s focus is on bettering community dialogue between the Whitley community writ large and the Police department.

Committed to community engagement and service learning, Ball State University is adding \$7,500.00 to the \$15,000.00 Senior Faculty Fellows grant from Indiana Campus Compact.

Laura Weaver, Indiana Campus Compact's Director of Professional Development and Engaged Learning says, "Besides the work she does on a micro-level with the Whitley community, she has become a leader in the field of community engagement, as evidenced by her frequent presentations and peer-reviewed research. She recently co-authored an article with Mr. Scott and Mr. Hudson titled *Voices of Partnerships Within the Critical Service-Learning Framework*, which was recently published in the [Journal of Community Engagement and Higher Education](#). That collaboration shows not only her commitment to the field, but is a wonderful example of how she forges authentic partnerships with community life-lived experts."

Dr. Warren-Gordon says, "Over the course of the last three years, I have worked to develop critically engaged community projects that promote the development of cultural competency skills and respect for individual differences, acknowledging one's own positionality, and understanding power disparities with social justice as the central focus. Creating opportunities for collaboration is a major component of Indiana Campus Compact fellowship program. My goal [as Senior Fellow] is to provide fellows opportunities to be able to develop deeper understandings of critical engagement practices that will allow for fellows to think about their own positionality and how it frames their community engagement practices."

"Indiana Campus Compact is proud to be supporting innovators like Dr. Warren-Gordon in creating programs to prepare college students as the next generation of civic leaders and community-minded workforce while making a positive impact on tens of thousands of Hoosiers", says J.R. Jamison, Indiana Campus Compact Executive Director.

### ***About Indiana Campus Compact***

*Indiana Campus Compact (ICC) is a partnership of Indiana's public, private, and community college higher education institutions focused on advocating, implementing, and improving service engagement so that students graduate as well-informed, engaged, and productive members of society who are fully enabled to provide leadership and service that advances the public good in their communities. Indiana Campus Compact is an affiliate of National Campus Compact, headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts.*

**Note to editor:** For a copy of the grant narrative, photos, or to track progress on this project, please reach out to Liza Blomquist, Director of Communication at 317-274-6505 or [liza@incampuscompact.org](mailto:liza@incampuscompact.org).

To learn how you can participate in the Faculty Fellows program, contact Laura Weaver, Director of Professional Development and Engaged Learning [laura@incampuscompact.org](mailto:laura@incampuscompact.org) or 317-274-6504

To learn how you can support the Faculty Fellows program, contact Steven Stolen, Senior Advisor for Philanthropic Gifts at [sstolen57@gmail.com](mailto:ssstolen57@gmail.com)

