

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Marian University, Indianapolis

Awarded \$11,000 for Three-Year Grant

The funding from Indiana Campus Compact will provide Marian University with the opportunity to deepen and broaden their community engagement efforts by intentionally deepening their campus-wide ethos for community engagement.



INDIANAPOLIS, IN – **Marian University's** project, *Narratives from our Neighbors Initiative*, will be led by **Mark Latta**, Director of the Writing Center, Instructor of English, and Public Literacy Coordinator and **Ellen Whitt**, Vice President of Leadership Integration. The funding provided by the *Actualizing a Culture of Community Engagement* grant will support efforts to develop a neighborhood-based project in the near northwest area of Indianapolis, IN documenting, celebrating, and sharing community stories as the organizing

mechanism for deepening the university's community engagement within the neighborhood. The project will be interdisciplinary, welcoming students and faculty from all academic pursuits to create a linkage between their courses or service projects and the neighborhood residents and organizations.

Committed to community engagement, **Marian University is adding \$11,000 to the \$11,000 grant from Indiana Campus Compact.** Marian University President Daniel J. Elsener says, "As an anchor institution, we are committed to this initiative and [are providing the] 100% match as a way to demonstrate our dedication of and buy-in for the project. The *Narratives from our Neighbors Initiative* will allow Marian University to continue to work collaboratively with the near northwest neighborhood to celebrate and share powerful stories and engage in a deeper partnership based on mutual respect and appreciation, with the community."

Through a series of community meals provided by neighbors working in the culinary arts, Marian University will establish a structured but enlivened way for conversations to unfold. Interested faculty, staff, students and administrators will take part in training on the history and the benefits of an "asset-based community development" approach to neighborhood revitalization. In addition, the university will also expand upon the "Community Engagement Showcase" that raised awareness of community-engaged learning courses and projects, existing resources, the near northwest "Quality of Life Plan" and the related "Riverside Park Plan" with the goal of attracting greater student and community participation.

Students and community members will both benefit from working together as neighbors, and that collaboration will deepen the culture of community engagement across the campus. Students will learn respect for individual differences by embracing and learning from diverse cultures, perspectives, and traditions. Community members will benefit by being seen and heard as distinct individuals with stories to tell, and knowledge to pass on.

About Indiana Campus Compact

Indiana Campus Compact 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. For more information, please visit www.indianacampuscompact.org.