

Engagement and Outreach at Big Ten Universities

America's Big Ten universities are leaders in teaching and learning, research and discovery, and outreach and public service (engagement), having developed and/or implemented solutions to some of society's greatest challenges in partnership with our communities. Our universities are committed to public engagement to better fulfill our tripartite missions. We teach 607,980 students, employ 93,429 faculty, and have a mandate to serve the 86.5 million citizens of our states. Institutions that make up the Big Ten have worked in collaboration with our communities to co-create, co-design, and address critical issues faced by individuals, organizations, and businesses.

Embedded in all of our missions is the purpose to serve and advance the public good and make significant societal impact:

- Our research missions promote the production of new knowledge and discoveries that advance the betterment of society;
- Our teaching missions call us to engage our students in meaningful and impactful educational experiences that prepare them for productive citizenship in a rapidly changing global society; and:
- Our public service, outreach, and engagement missions urge us to optimize the application of the assets of our universities to address the needs of our respective states and the broader society.

While the histories and character of each Big Ten institution have shaped the development and focus of the institution's public engagement agenda, all Big Ten universities share a strong commitment to fulfilling their public purposes across their missions; indeed, the Big Ten institutions stand as national and international leaders in defining, promoting and enacting outreach and engagement for public impact. This commitment is exemplified through resource allocation, the promotion of engaged scholarship within academic units, and the establishment of campus leadership positions responsible for deepening the institutionalization of public engagement in the scholarly context.

The Big Ten's Outreach and Engagement leaders have a diverse set of portfolios serving constituents internal and external to the university. Our work engages and supports students, faculty, and staff in their community engagement as well as nonprofits, business, schools, community, and civic leaders across our states and beyond. Outcomes of this work include but are not limited to the advancement of:

- Engaged scholarship
- Broader impacts of research
- Faculty development for community engagement
- Communications about outreach and engagement
- Awards programs for outreach and engagement

- Community-engaged creative activity
- Community-engaged service and practice
- Community-engaged teaching/service learning
- Talent development through enhanced student retention, engagement in learning, and workforce preparation
- Improved recruitment and retention of faculty and graduate students
- Innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology-based economic development
- Quality of place development through public service, outreach, extension, and engagement
- Documentation of scale, scope, and impacts of university community engagement efforts
- Leadership development for academic administrators charged with facilitating public impact missions in their units

While the portfolios at the individual institutions are diverse, the commonality is that the leaders collectively focus both on impacting the communities with which the institutions partner and elevating the centrality of community-engaged work within our universities.

As a Big Ten cohort of engagement leaders and professionals, we come together to:

- Share opportunities and challenges that we face to explore solutions
- Create community focused on our diverse set of portfolios
- Discuss policies and practices designed to further public impact for our institutions
- Raise awareness of the power and potential of community engagement to advance higher institutional goals and priorities

Our influential, research-intensive anchor institutions have public mandates, and such institutions are needed now more than ever. The country faces significant challenges that demand solutions that are identified, co-designed, created, and implemented with the community. The Big Ten Outreach and Engagement leaders support diverse staff, programs, and initiatives that are designed to center the institution's work in the community.

As the nation turns more intentionally to address racial injustices and the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the universities within the Big Ten Academic Alliance are poised and well-positioned to engage fully with individuals, neighborhoods, organizations, businesses, schools, governmental agencies, and the nonprofit community to help set a new course for the communities with which we partner, serve, and engage. Prioritization and investment in elevating the importance of engagement and outreach across all parts of our universities' missions are essential now as we are called to accelerate opportunities for our faculty, students, and academic units to respond to complex societal challenges.



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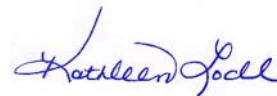
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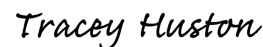
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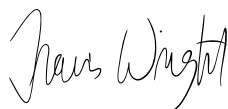
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