

## **GOAL 3: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY**

*SERVE AS A NATIONAL MODEL FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITIES THROUGH LIFELONG ENGAGEMENT AND CIVIC ACTION OF OUR STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF, AND ALUMNI*

### **Initiative 1: Support the Ryves Neighborhood community initiative**

The Ryves Neighborhood initiative is a partnership of local organizations, institutions, and residents focused on improving quality of life in the neighborhood. ISU will help implement the Ryves Neighborhood Strategy, a community action plan, through various housing, clean-up, and education projects.

### **Initiative 2: Support the Healthier by 2020 campaign**

United Way's Healthier by 2020 plan aims to prevent and reduce obesity rates in Vigo County through healthy eating and active living. The Institute for Community Sustainability and Center for Community Engagement will coordinate activities at ISU that support the initiative.

### **Initiative 3: Increase co-curricular community engagement**

After twelve successful years, the ISU AmeriCorps program – Sycamore Service Corps – concluded on August 31, 2017. This program fostered lasting, productive relationships between ISU and the Terre Haute community. AmeriCorps members contributed more than 100,000 service hours and recruited more than 2500 additional volunteers at non-profit agencies in the Wabash Valley and surrounding areas. Service learning will continue to be a priority at ISU; in fact, the Center for Community Engagement will launch a new initiative called the Sycamore Community Work program. This program will continue our relationship with community partners by placing students in employment opportunities with local non-profit, public, or government agencies.

### **Initiative 4: Enhance academic achievement partnership with local schools**

ISU will support Deming Elementary School through immediate and long-term projects, including: donation of school supplies and laptops, assessment support, new teacher induction, and improved parental involvement programs. This initiative aims to improve student attendance, student achievement, and parental involvement. These intermediate outcomes support our long-term goal of improving college-going rates of Vigo County School Corporation students.

### **Initiative 5: Encourage lifelong civic engagement through the American Democracy Project**

The American Democracy Project is a national initiative that encourages students to be civically and politically active in college and beyond. At ISU, ADP coordinates voter registration efforts, a speaker series, and other programming.

### **Initiative 6: Establish a microloan program to support small businesses**

In collaboration with the Small Business Association, ISU will provide microloans to new and growing small businesses. By lending to community business owners that might otherwise not be considered for a loan, the program supports inclusivity and economic development within the Wabash Valley.