Creative Inquiry and Immersive Learning
Employers Find College Transcripts Of Limited Use In Evaluating Potential

How useful do you find the college transcript in helping you evaluate job applicants’ potential to succeed at your company?

- Just somewhat useful: 34%
- Fairly useful: 16%
- Not useful: 33%
- Very useful: 13%
- Not sure: 4%

Assessments’ Usefulness In Helping Employers Evaluate College Graduates’ Potential

- Faculty supervisor’s assessment of applicant’s student internship/community-based project applying college learning in real-world setting: 40% very useful, 67% fairly useful
- Sample of applicant’s student senior project and overview of faculty assessment of the project: 30% very useful, 61% fairly useful
- Electronic portfolio of applicant’s college work, including accomplishments in key skill areas and faculty assessments: 30% very useful, 56% fairly useful
- Applicant’s score on essay test to evaluate level of problem-solving, writing, and analytical-thinking skills: 23% very useful, 54% fairly useful
- Applicant college’s score showing how the college compares to others in advancing students’ critical-thinking skills: 14% very useful, 36% fairly useful
- Applicant’s score on multiple-choice test of general content knowledge: 6% very useful, 29% fairly useful
UNDERGRADUATES
The Birthplace of Immersive Learning

- Project-based seminars
- Collaborative
- Interdisciplinary
- Community Partners
- Final Showcase
Project Based

Awards: Society of Professional Journalists

Lauren Onkey and her students studied the roles tourism and travel writing play in constructing and
Collaborative Award: American Association of State and Local History
Interdisciplinary Award: Emmy – National Association of Television Arts and Sciences
Community Partners

Award: Margaret Mead Award, American Anthropology Association
Final Showcase

Performance: Council on Undergraduate Research
the Circus in Winter

inspired by the book by CATHY DAY

a musical

... a blizzard, a flood, the heartbreak of love,
for every high-flying act, the jewels of blood,
some things once seen cannot be said
and so we say we've seen the elephant instead...

Follow the journey of this original musical...
Beth Turcotte, Theater and Dance
Students
THE CIRCUS IN WINTER

CATHY DAY

“One of the most sublimely imaginative and affecting [books] I’ve read in years.”
— THE BOSTON GLOBE
Ken Dingledine, Theatrical Publisher
Final Production
The Kennedy’s Center American College Theater Festival Awards
• Outstanding Production of a New Work
• Distinguished Director of a Musical
• Outstanding Director of a New Work
• Outstanding Scenic Design
• Distinguished Lighting Design
• Distinguished Performance by an Actress
• Distinguished Performance and Production Ensembles
• Virginia Ball Center for Creative Inquiry – Special Commendation for Supporting the Arts
Virginia Ball Center Alumni Survey

• 97% indicate that VBC was the single most important experience in their college education.

• 68% indicate that VBC contributed directly to their ability to find or design a creative professional life.
Creative Inquiry
(2000 - )

Faculty – 4
Students – 60

Immersive Learning
(2007 - )

Faculty – 1,000
Students – 20,000
Ball State’s **Strategic Plan** by 2012

- Immersive Learning as signature educational experience.
- Increase participation by 10% per year.
- All 49 departments participate.
Characteristics of Immersive Learning

- Academic credit
- Collaborative learning
- Product-driven
- Interdisciplinary teams
- Community-based
- Learning outcomes
- Define career path
Progress on Ball State’s Strategic Plan

- 2006 – 07
  - 1,680 students
  - 26 departments
- 2007 – 08
  - 2,613 students
  - 38 departments
- 2008 – 09
  - 2,726 students
  - 35 departments
- 2009 – 10
  - 2,848 students
  - 44 departments
- 2010 – 11
  - 4,052 students
  - 45 departments
Progress on Ball State’s Capital Fund Drive

- Goal: $200 million by 2012
- Immersive Learning: $40 million
- To date: $210 million
Final Report on the Strategic Plan
Immersive Learning, 2012

- 12,239 Students
- 755 Projects
- 70 out of 92 counties
Nature at Play

Faculty
• Martha Hunt, Landscape Architecture

Students
• Environmental Science
• Creative Writing
• Graphic Arts
• Elementary Ed.
• Landscape Architecture
• Computer Science

Product
• Computer Game for Elementary School Students

Partners
• Storer School, Minnetrista Center

Recognition
• Honor Award in Student Collaboration, The American Society of Landscape Architects