



SUSTAINING HOOSIER COMMUNITIES

What is Sustaining Hoosier Communities?

Sustaining Hoosier Communities (SHC) is a community-engaged learning initiative coordinated by the **IU Center for Rural Engagement**. Through a community-identified project, students and faculty address opportunities and challenges that impact the health, prosperity, and vitality of rural Indiana.

How does SHC support your collaboration?

Your course instructor and community partner have already agreed to the scope of your project. You will visit the community at least once during the course to learn more about the community and the project, establish connections with community partners, and build relationships with community leaders. SHC will follow your progress and may publish stories about your partnership on SHC websites and social media. Making your work public strengthens your collaboration and encourages future partnerships. We ask that you sign the Media Consent Form so that photos or videos of your class can be featured. At the conclusion of this course, SHC will host an event where you and your classmates, faculty, and community partners will share their projects with the public. As well, we hope you will share feedback about your experience with SHC and offer recommendations to improve the program for future students and communities.

How will your experience prepare you for future opportunities?

Engaging with Indiana's rural communities provides you with opportunities to apply your knowledge and skills, advance your professional and career interests, communicate with diverse audiences, and problem-solve with people outside your immediate field of study. After this semester, consider enrolling in another SHC course, highlighting your community engagement experience on your resume, or contacting the Center for Rural Engagement about opportunities to gain more professional experience through internships or volunteer service.



Orange County, IN

This year, SHC courses are collaborating with **Orange County**—population 19,605. The county has four incorporated towns, including **Paoli** (the county seat), **Orleans**, French Lick, and West Baden; unincorporated communities include Chambersburg, Leipsic, Prospect, Orangeville, and Valeene. Home to **a local food cooperative**, a county-wide community garden, agricultural programs for youth, an artist-in-residence program, and **a restored, historic resort**, the county is in a unique position to further develop its tourism economy by capitalizing on its historical, agricultural, and recreational roots. To learn more about the demographic, economic, and social characteristics of Orange County, visit shc.indiana.edu.

ENGAGE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow SHC and the Center for Rural Engagement on **Twitter** (@iu_rural) and **Facebook** (/iurural), and post photos and updates using #iu and #rural.