

About Us

BUCKEYE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT CONNECTION

The mission of the **Department of Social Change's Buckeye Civic Engagement Connection (BCEC)** is to bring together the communities of The Ohio State University and the state of Ohio. We believe that sustainable, community-driven, place-based, multi-disciplinary projects can empower the local community and improve the quality of life for Ohioans.

Working to provide a pathway out of poverty, we use local human capital to increase educational opportunities for vulnerable youth that include learning beyond the classroom. To this end, Ohio State students involved with BCEC create comprehensive projects of civic engagement, allowing them to become informed citizens and gain valuable service experience.

Social Change Buckeye Civic Engagement Connection

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Buckeye REACH with Department of Youth Services

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Buckeye REACH with Returning Citizens

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Social Change Buckeye Civic Engagement Connection

Buckeye REACH

Relationships and Education in Action through Community and Hope



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE



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➔ About Buckeye R.E.A.C.H.

Buckeye REACH is a program that creates an opportunity for members of The Ohio State University community to build relationships with young people who are incarcerated in Ohio through the Department of Youth Services (DYS) and individuals incarcerated at the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW), as well as working with returning citizens through the development of a holistic re-entry program. Buckeye REACH is a year-long commitment, recruiting undergraduate and graduate students who are passionate about developing meaningful collaboration with facility residents.

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Buckeye REACH with Department of Youth Services

Marian Wright Edelman says, “you can’t be what you can’t see.” The youth in the facilities often do not see positive examples of people who look like them pursuing higher education. Through Buckeye REACH, Ohio State undergraduate and graduate students travel to the DYS facilities to build relationships with youth. Programming during the visits include movie presentations, book clubs, wellness activities, etc., allowing Ohio State students the opportunity to building connections and talk about everyday issues with the young people at the facility. The intention of this educational program is to help reduce recidivism and to provide direct mentoring to the residents. Students engaged in Buckeye REACH also serve as a pen-pal to the youth within DYS. Ohio State students are responsible for writing letters to the youth, on off-weeks; the youth give their responding letters to their pen-pal during the Buckeye REACH programming weeks.

Buckeye REACH with the Ohio Reformatory for Women

The Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) is one of a select group of women’s prisons in the United States that allow the unique opportunity for mothers to care for their newborn children while incarcerated. Within the rehabilitation center, given specific criteria and sentencing restrictions, mothers nourish, bond with, and raise their children from birth to the mother’s release date. New legislative mandates extend this opportunity for more mothers to participate, and Buckeye REACH is dedicated to providing additional support to the mother, babies, and facility staff to meet the growing demands.

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Buckeye REACH with Returning Citizens

Buckeye REACH aims to reduce recidivism and help create a foundation for returning citizens, formally incarcerated individuals, to have opportunities and support in reaching their personal goals. One way that Buckeye REACH is enhancing this service is through the development of a re-entry program. This program is being designed to help bridge the gaps for economic stability and job-readiness, academic attainment, and building a positive social support network. Working with community partners, the re-entry program seeks local connections to aid in the collection of imperative resources for successful re-adjustment.

➔ Our Staff

We have a creative and diverse group of student staff, professional staff, and volunteers who all work together in attempt to make the greatest impact on the communities served. In addition to working with the populations served to create best practices, our staff has engaged researchers, social workers, education professionals, criminal justice and humanities majors, along with a whole host of other areas of focus and disciplines. This also creates a great networking opportunity for our staff, the youth, and women who we work directly with to learn about potential pathways and career goals that may be of interest to them. We welcome dedicated volunteers to participate in this very meaningful partnership. Transportation and carpools are arranged to and from the correctional facilities.

➔ Facilities

In the 2015–2016 academic year Buckeye REACH will take place in the following correctional facilities:

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Central Ohio Youth Center
Marysville, Ohio

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Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facilities
Circleville, Ohio

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Franklin County Juvenile Detention Center
Columbus, Ohio

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Ohio Reformatory for Women
Marysville, Ohio

