

## **ABSTRACT**

**CREATIVE PROJECT:** Developing Intentional Cultural Exchange (D.I.C.E.): An Early Start Program for Acculturation and Language Skill Development

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**DEGREE:** Master of Arts

**COLLEGE:** Teachers College

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The early start program, D.I.C.E., aims to promote language proficiency and acculturation for international students, mutually beneficial cultural exchange and professional skill development for domestic students, and a skill set in cultural competence for all participants. D.I.C.E. would serve as a platform to promote resources underutilized by the undergraduate international student population at Ball State University, and promote similarly underutilized student organizations, like the International Ambassadors Association who host a bi-weekly English Enhancement program. The program would improve intentional cultural exchange and mutual academic success of international and domestic students through immersive experiences.

Through close partnership with Housing and Residence Life, specifically the Humanities Living Learning Community (LLC) staff, D.I.C.E. would be implemented in three phases. Phase 1 in Spring 2020 focuses on international student integration into the Humanities LLC. Phase 2 during the 2020-2021 academic year will incorporate English Education, Modern Language, and TESOL activities with the weekly academic program facilitated by the LLC. Phase 3 in Fall 2021 will permit early move-in for English Education, Modern Language, and TESOL majors,

mirroring the move-in period for residential international students. The kickoff event would be a shopping trip for room amenities and food to be used for a cultural potluck, the central activity for cultural exchange and language skill development. The exchange would be furthered by academic initiatives throughout the year as a continuance of the program mission.