

Contact Name: Annie Wood Bell  
Contact Phone: 765-608-3061

7/9/2024

## Media Advisory

### Anderson grassroots civics group chosen to present at the 2024 Civic Learning Symposium - Ball State University

Community Lens of Anderson (CLA), a local grassroots, non-partisan organization, has been chosen to present at the 2024 Civic Learning Symposium, hosted by Ball State's Center for Economic and Civic Learning on September 27-28. This event serves as a focal point for faculty, educators, and community members to come together, share insights, and explore innovative approaches to civic education and engagement.

Annie Wood Bell, Director of Family Success with Heart of Indiana United Way (HIUW) and key member of CLA's leadership team, submitted a proposal in June to share the collaborative work HIUW and CLA have been doing to improve civic engagement in Anderson. "The presentation is titled, **Grassroots Civics: How Small Town Anderson is Stepping Up**. We want to share some of the main projects and civic activities in which CLA engages each year to benefit local residents specific to voter readiness, knowing their candidates, and using their voices. CLA's mission is to encourage everyone to seek to understand, identify their own priorities, and learn to use their voices for the good of all citizens", states Wood Bell.

The session will be co-led by Wood Bell and community member, Cherilyn Horning, who also provides key leadership for CLA. Together, they will provide practical tools to help people become more active participants in democracy. Horning suggests, *"Everyone has things they are passionate about and want to advocate for. We plan to help participants consider their civic engagement "why" and use that to help create the community they want to see."*

CLA invites all Anderson and area citizens, who are able, to attend the symposium. **Early registration discounts still apply through the month of July at \$40 a ticket and the price increases to \$120 August 1st.** To register, please visit <https://www.bsu.edu/academics/centersandinstitutes/cecl/annual-civic-learning-symposium>. For all other inquires about the Annual Civic Learning Symposium, please contact CECL at [cecl@bsu.edu](mailto:cecl@bsu.edu)