

# Collaborations for Tomorrow: Building University-in-Community Networks for University-with-Community Solutions

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Toward Higher Ground: New Visions, New Voices for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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# Context for Engagement: Institutional Identity and Institutional Commitment (Carnegie Classification)

## MSU Mission Statement

- strives to **discover** practical uses for theoretical knowledge and to speed the **diffusion** of information to residents of the state, the nation, and the world...
- is committed to emphasizing the **applications** of information; and contributing to the understanding and the **solution** of significant societal problems...



# Definition of Outreach/Engagement

“Outreach (engaged scholarship) is a form of **scholarship** that cuts across **teaching, research, and service**. It involves generating, transmitting, applying, and preserving knowledge **for the direct benefit of external audiences** in ways that are consistent with university and unit missions.”

*Provost's Committee on University Outreach*  
1993



**As a university located within a community,  
Michigan State University is committed to  
working with communities to effect  
transformational change.**

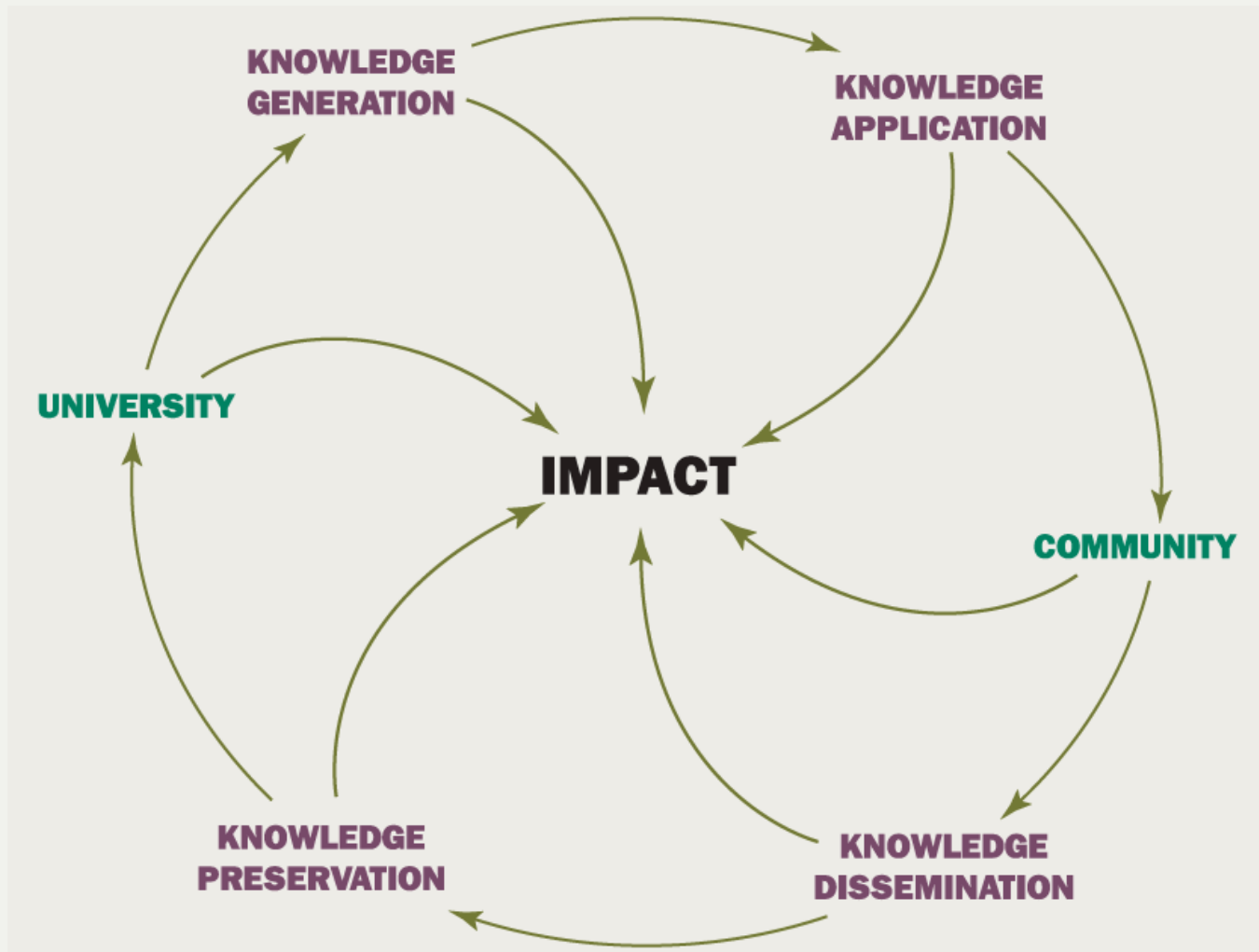


# MSU Approach

- **Becoming Embedded in Communities:** Working in long-standing partnerships that are embedded in communities to identify the needs of families, businesses, neighborhoods and community organizations
- **Stressing Asset-Based Solutions:** Focusing on asset-based solutions that build on the strengths and advantages of those we serve
- **Building Community Capacity:** Building capacity within families, businesses and communities to address the challenges and build on the opportunities they face
- **Creating Collaborative Networks:** Building networks among communities and organizations that lead to regional collaborations and innovations that are sustainable



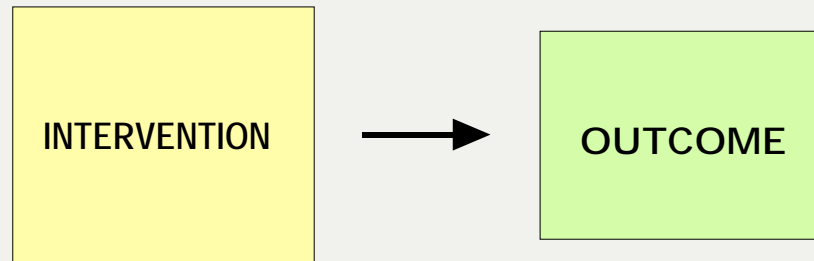
# UOE Scholarship Based Approach to Campus-Community Partnerships



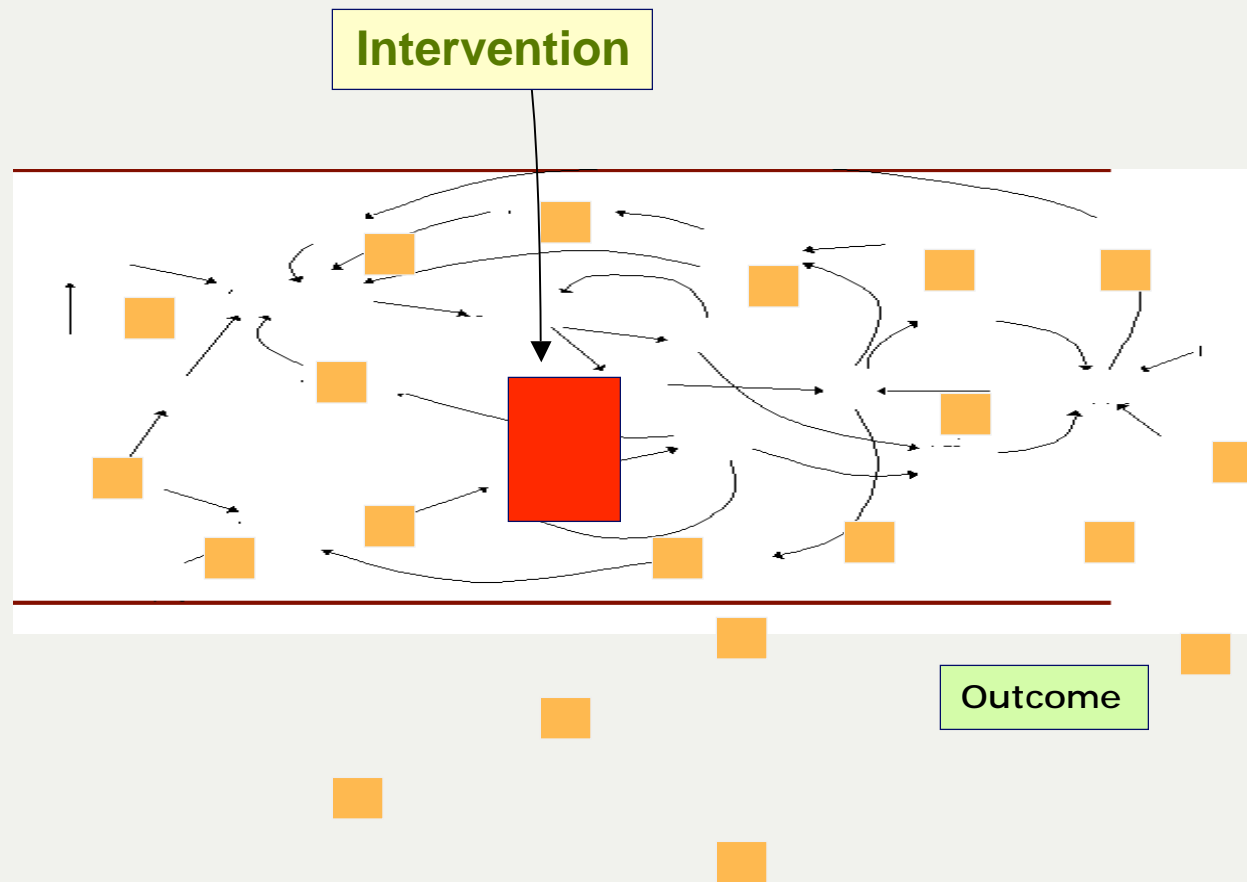
# Building and Monitoring Access for Campus-Community Engagement



# Traditional Approach to Change: Linear Modeling, Linear Thinking



# When in Reality, Things Are Not Linear...



*Foster-Fishman, 2007*

# System Level Community-Campus Partnerships

*Power of We – connecting through a community network of networks*

- A unique, sustainable model for capacity building and community improvement
- Committed to transforming Michigan's capital area
- Co-transforming the linkages between community and campus
- Partnering with UOE to create Tools of Engagement



# Power of We Consortium

- A “network of networks” that **brokers relationships, information, and resources** to tackle the community issues that are beyond the capacity of any single organization to address
- See **[www.PowerofWe.org](http://www.PowerofWe.org)** for a detailed description of the Power of We Consortium, its membership, and its goals and activities



# Membership

- **Founding entities (15)**, e.g. MSU, Capital Area United Way, City of Lansing, Ingham County Health Department, Lansing School District, Department of Human Services, CMH, etc.
- **Faith-based partners (~10)**
- **Community-based partners (~25)**
- **Community representatives (~8)**
- **>100 affiliates**

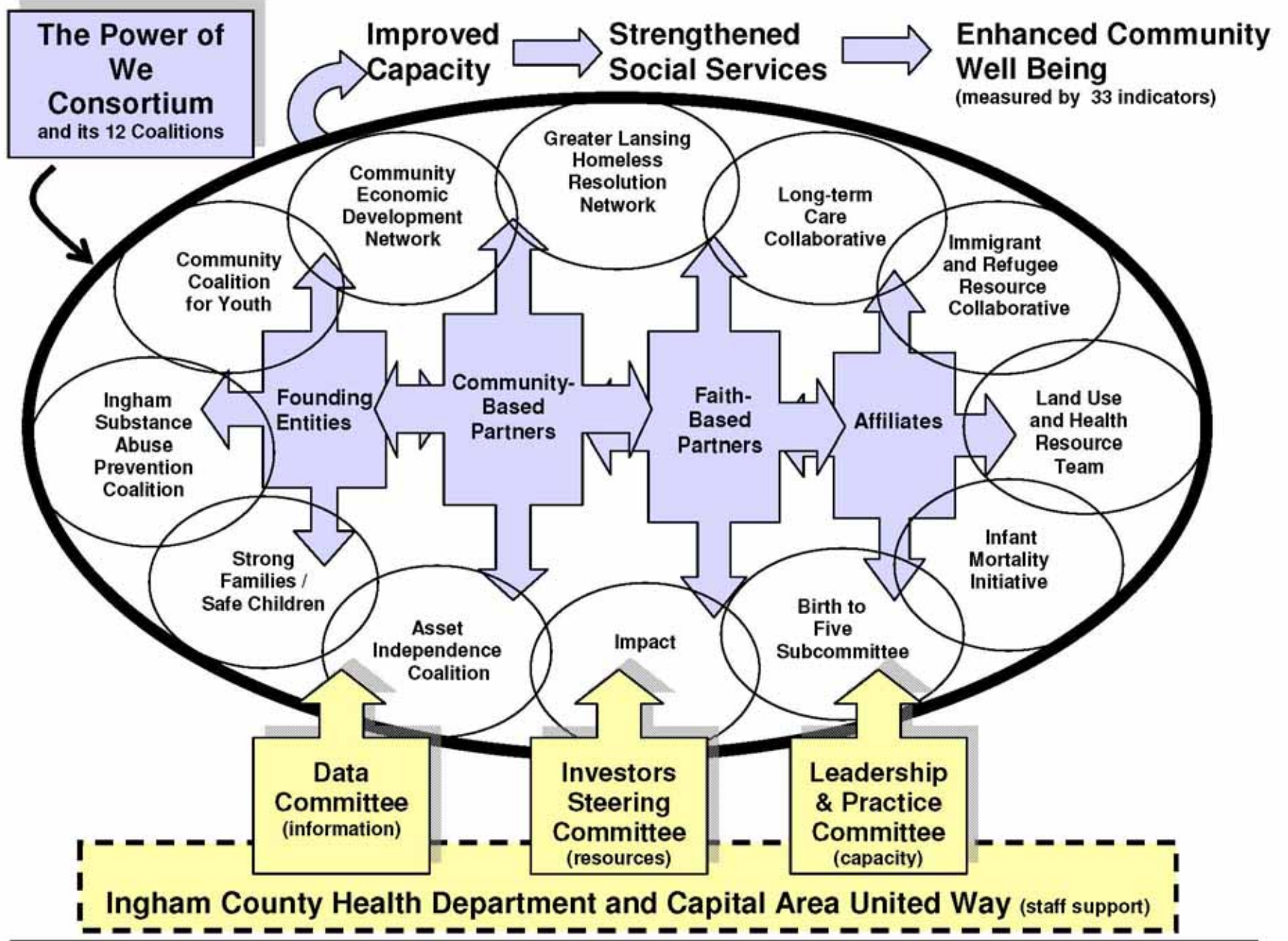


# Goals

- Advance **intellectual and social development**
- Build a dynamic, diverse, and vibrant **economy**
- Promote **physical and mental health**
- Keep homes and communities **safe by strengthening families and neighborhoods**
- **Steward natural resources**
- **Strengthen the sense of community** cohesion by actively engaging residents in the change process



# Power of We Consortium Structure



# Five Community Practices

Developed through participatory research and with the support of the Kellogg Foundation

- Engaging and mobilizing community members
- Facilitating dialogue and creating connections
- Identifying and supporting civic leadership
- Using all of the assets of the community for change
- Sharing and using data and information to support and monitor progress



## Key Accomplishments

- Provided access to healthcare for over 50% of the formerly uninsured in Ingham County
- Built and sustained a neighborhood-based system of community centers and community development initiatives that support grassroots change
- Engaged and mobilized residents in support of early childhood and youth development, reducing poverty, preventing substance abuse, and ending homelessness
- Assisted many faith-based and community organizations to build their own capacity

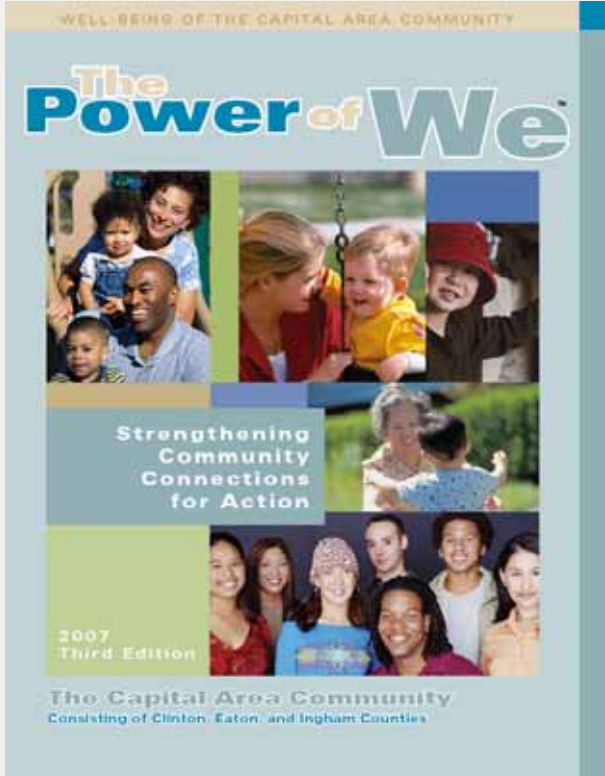


# Six Outcome Focal Areas

Intellectual  
and Social  
Development

Health

Environment



Economy

Safety

Community  
Life



## Examples of Coordinated and Leveraged Investment-Community Infrastructure

- **Neighborhood Revitalization:** Investing in neighborhood centers and their action plans for neighborhood revitalization
- **Nonprofit Sector:** Supporting faith-based and community organizations in building their own capacities through training, technical assistance, and grants
- **VISTA Members:** Organizing multi-year financing arrangements with the Corporation for National and Community Service in support of a pool of VISTA members that are placed throughout the community



## Examples of Coordinated and Leveraged Investment-Community Infrastructure

- **Health Coverage for the Uninsured:** Outreach by community health workers financed through multiple sources of funding and carried out through braided contracts with community-based organizations
- **Early Childhood Development:** Development of a community system of care and supports for parents with young children
- **Youth Development:** A philanthropic venture led by the Community Foundation to mobilize, coordinate, and leverage public and private resources towards improved outcomes for at-risk youth

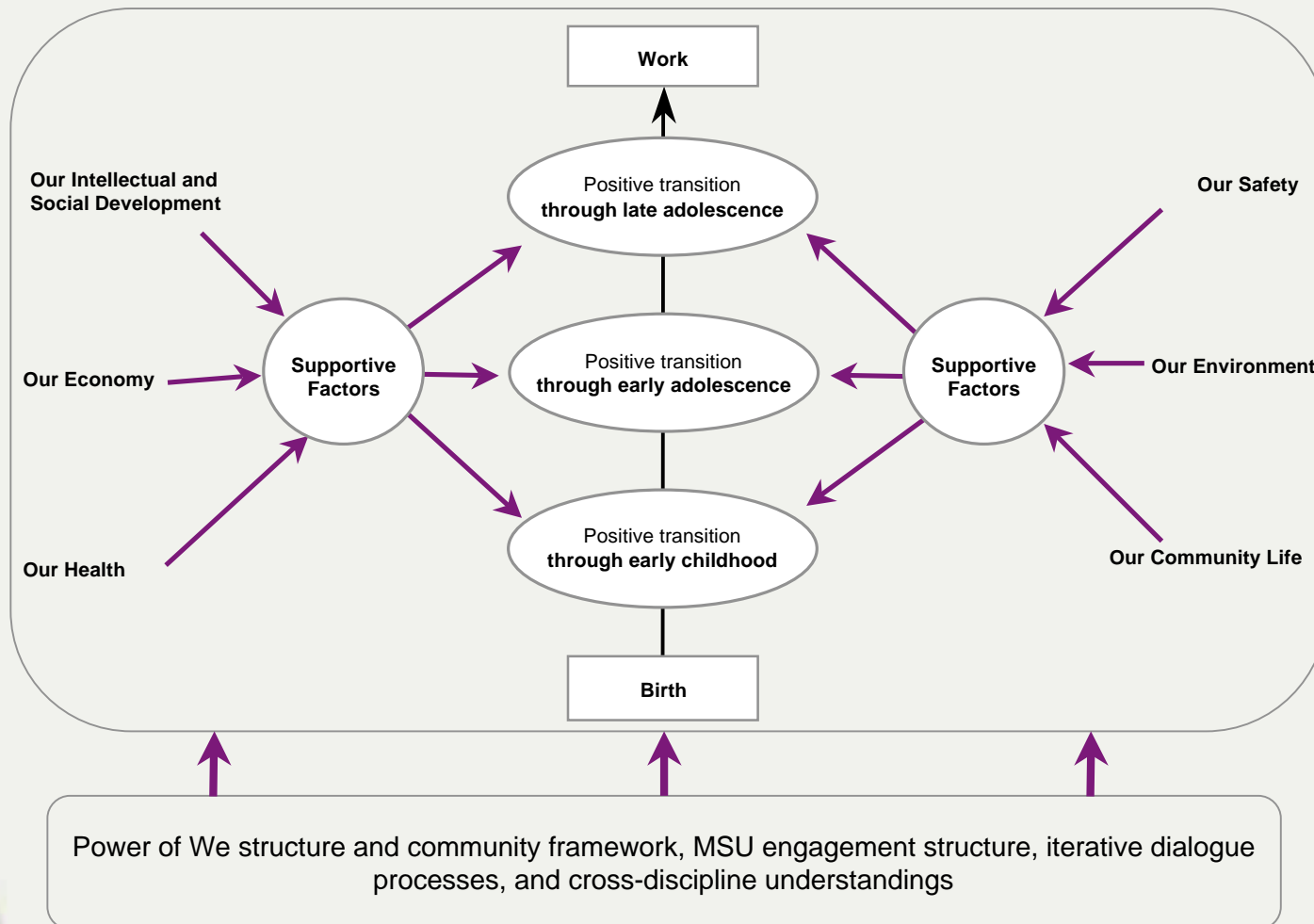


# **Birth-to-Work Initiative**

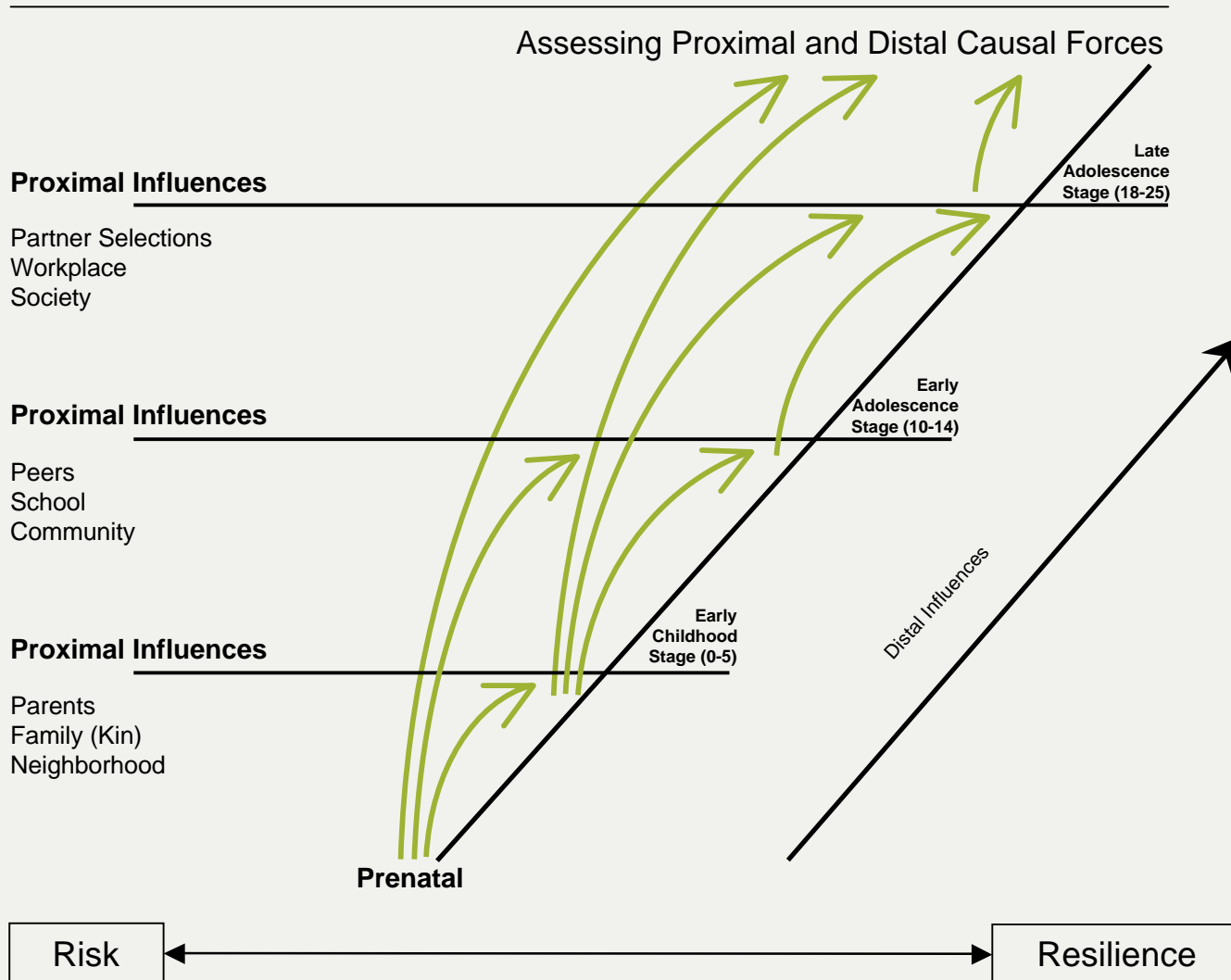
**Power of We Consortium  
and Michigan State University**



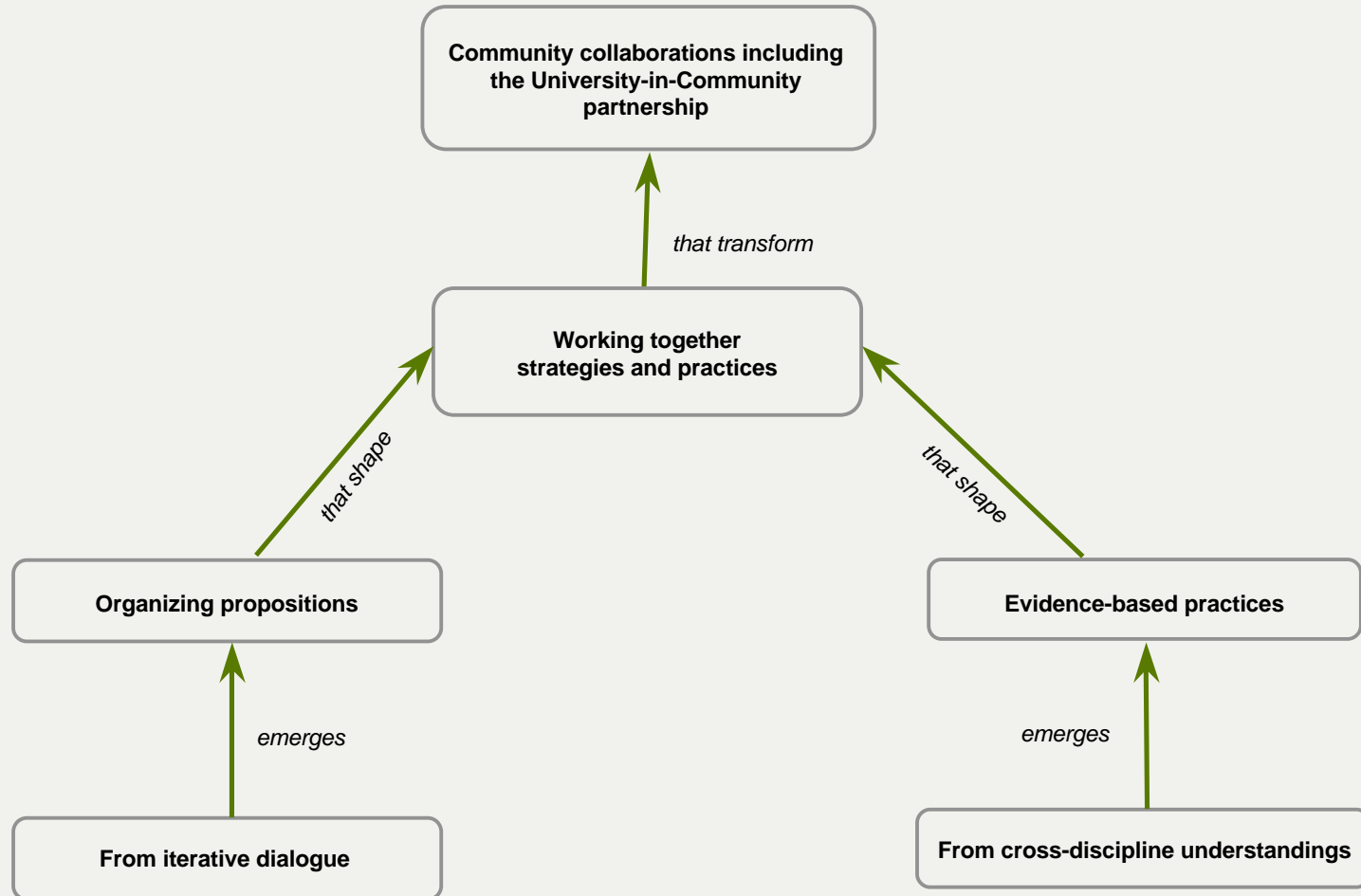
# Systemic Perspective on Birth-to-Work Developmental Pathway

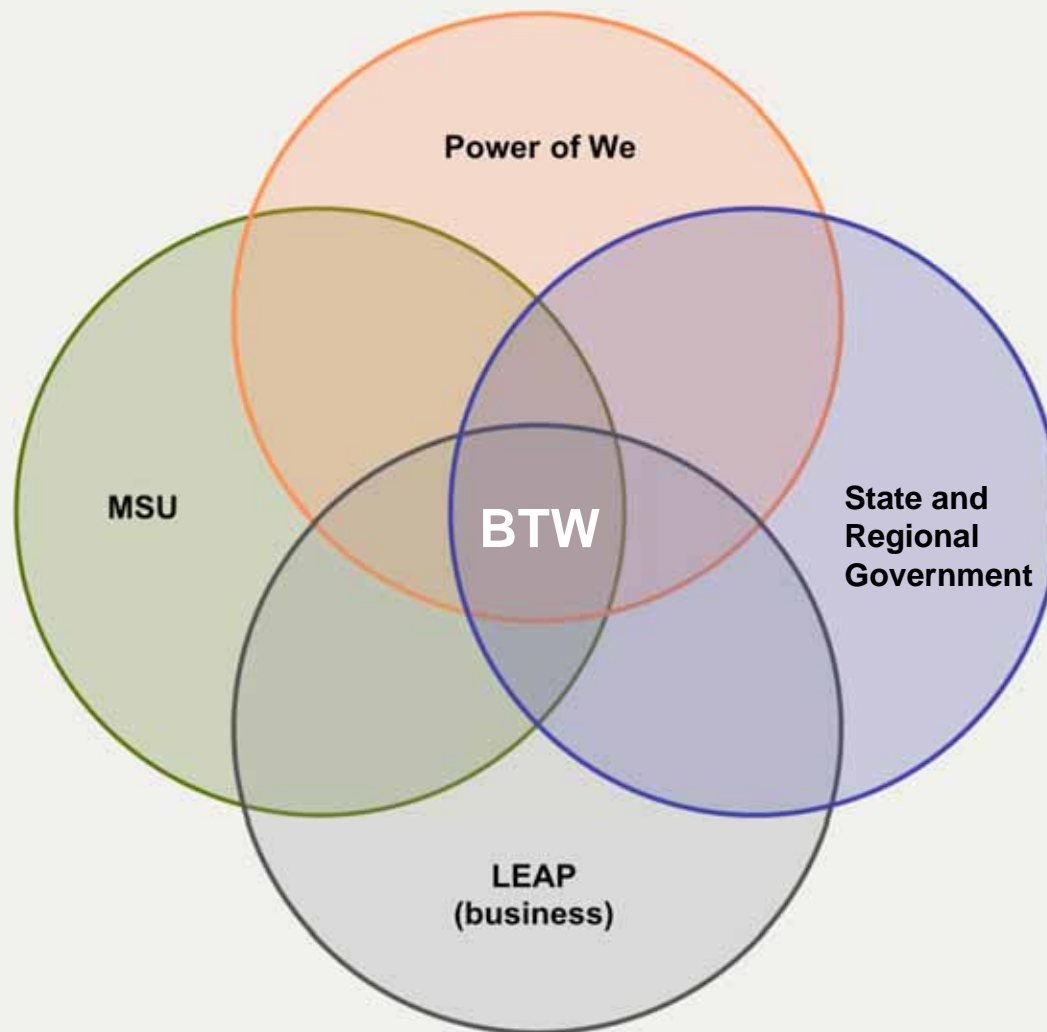


# Transitional State, Relationship Impacts

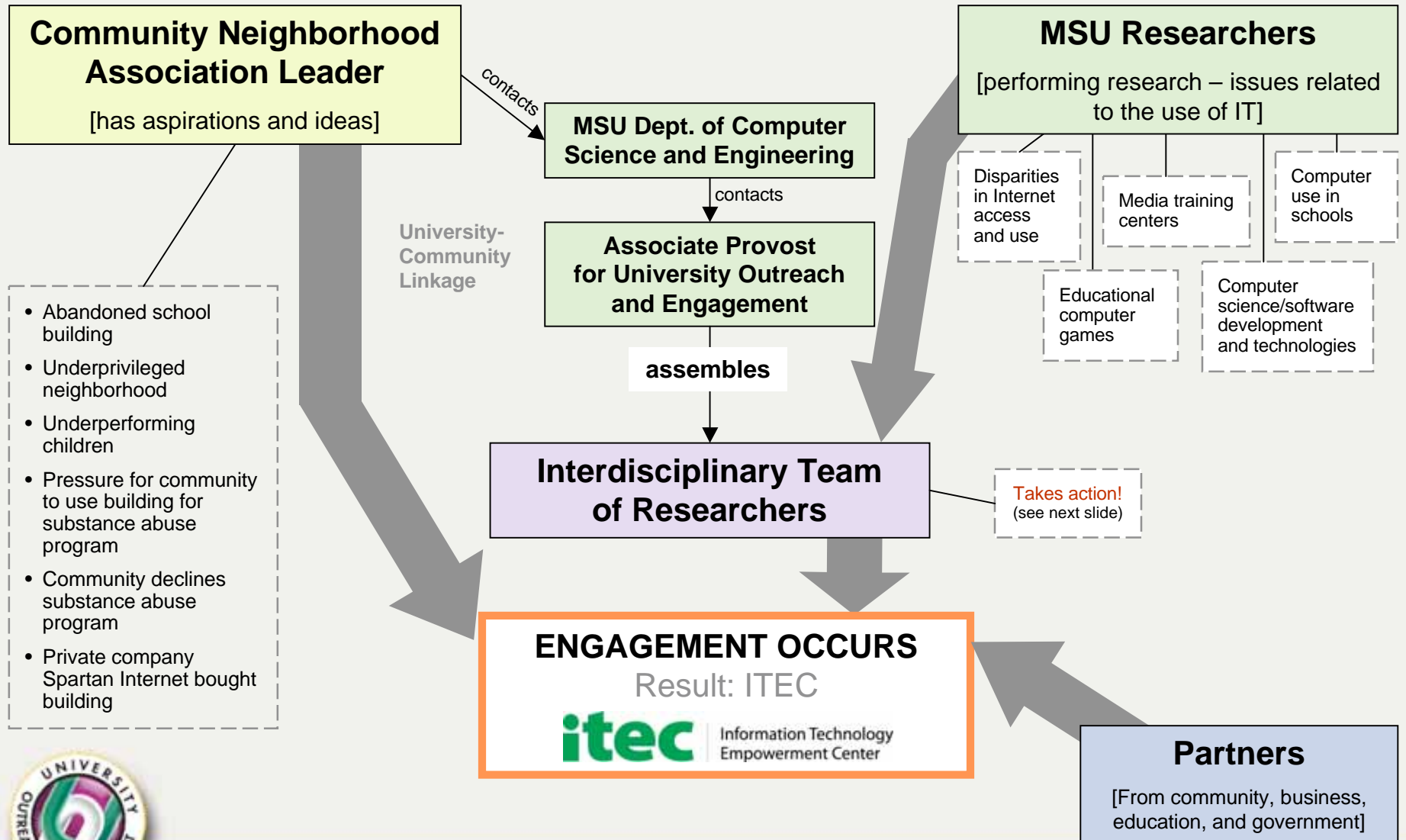


# Transforming Dynamics of Community Collaboration

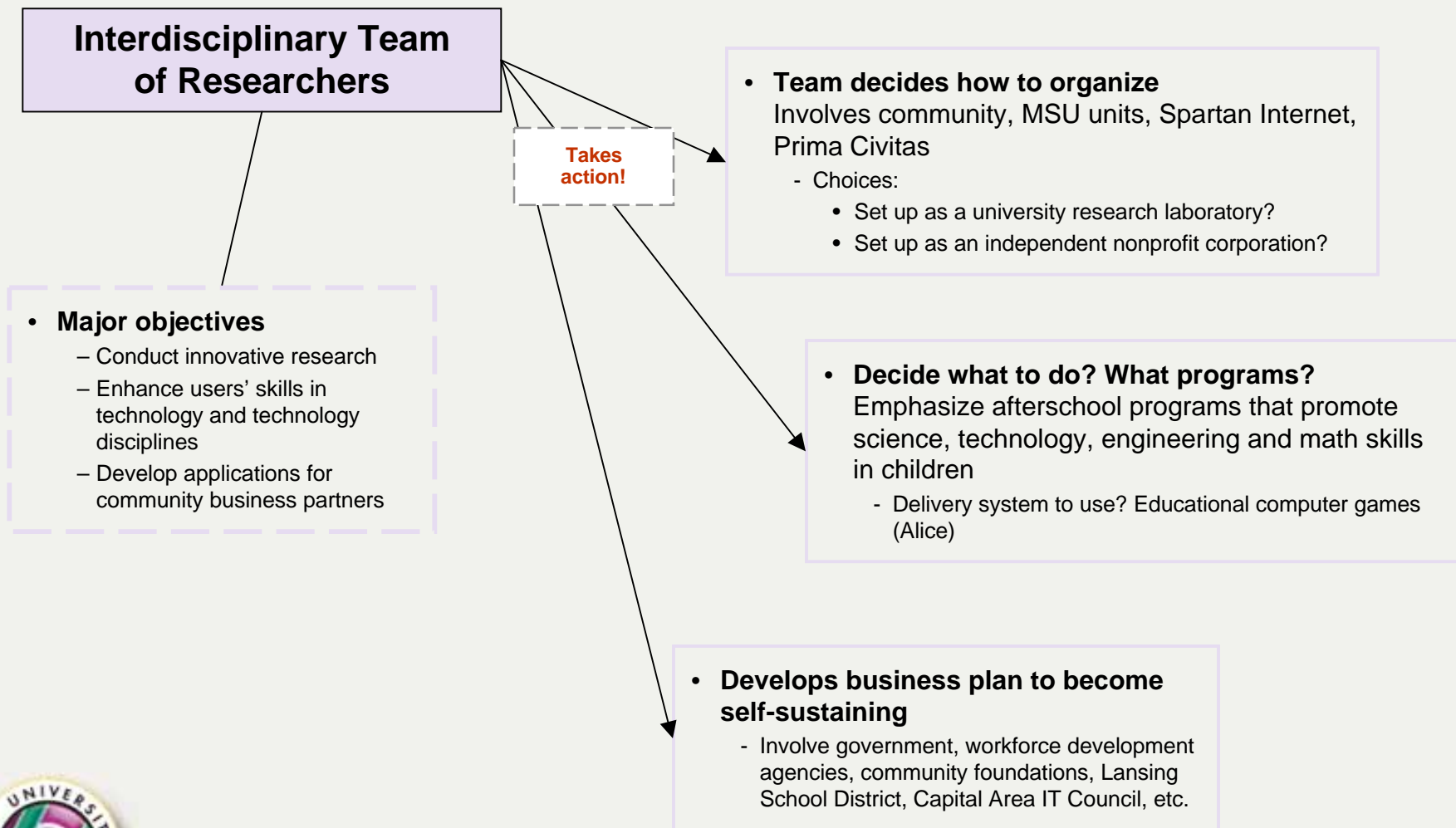




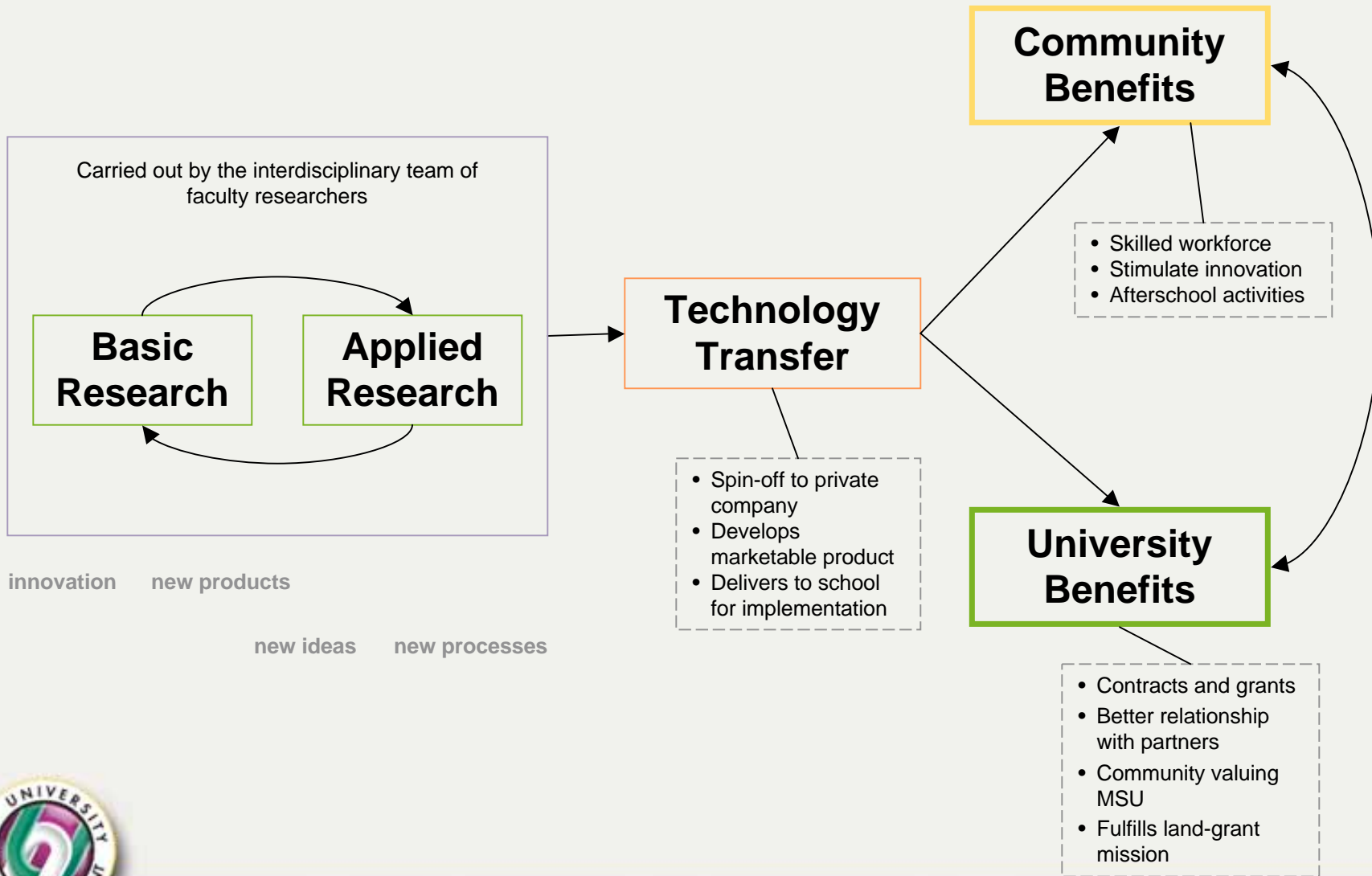
# Example of Campus-Community Program Development



# Steps Taken by the Interdisciplinary Team



# Research Process, Technology Transfer, and Benefits



# Successful Campus-Community Partnerships

- Share a common vision
- Share agreement about goals and strategies
- Have mutual trust and respect
- Share power and responsibility
- Communicate clearly and listen carefully
- Understand and empathize one another's circumstances
- Remain flexible, with eye on the target
- Achieve mutual benefits
- Enhance community partner's capacity for self sufficiency
- Enhance faculty member's scholarly career



## Who Does This Work?

- Faculty and Academic Specialists: 2300 of 4200
- Graduate students: With faculty mentors
- Undergraduate students:
  - 15,000 placed through the Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement (200 courses, plus volunteers)
  - Unknown number enrolled in independent research courses
- Community partners worldwide



# University Outreach and Engagement

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