

Power of We & Birth to Work

Building Sustainable Partnership Infrastructures

Hiram E. Fitzgerald

Michigan State University

fitzger9@msu.edu

Peggy Roberts

Power of We Consortium, Lansing

Kentucky Engagement Conference

Lexington, KY

November 18-19, 2008



The
Power of **We**[™]
Consortium



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** 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**

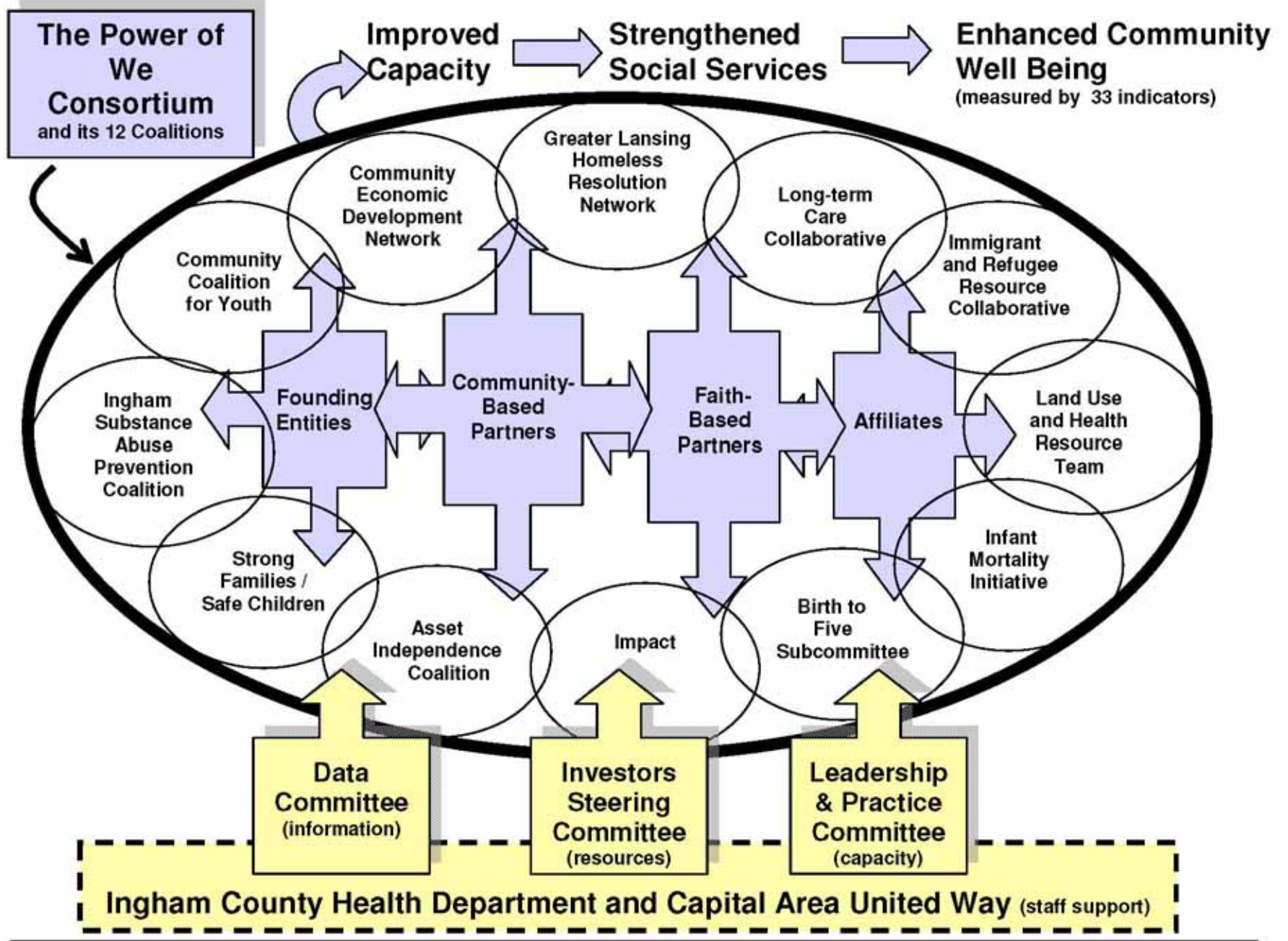


Goals

- 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



Community Data Committee

- **Charge:** To develop and monitor indicators of well-being, to produce periodic reports to the community, and to promote data democratization
- **Underwritten by:** Capital Area United Way and Ingham County Health Department with support from the Kellogg Foundation

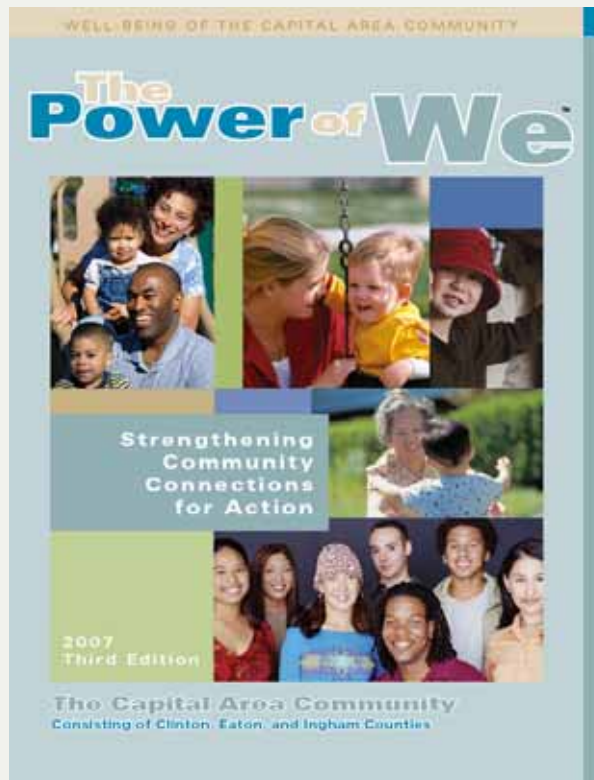


There are a Number of Indicators for Each of the 6 Areas

Intellectual
and Social
Development

Health

Environment



Economy

Safety

Community
Life



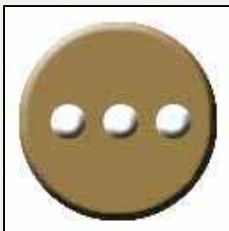
One of 4 Symbols is Used to Show the Status of Each Indicator



= Moving in the Right Direction



= Moving in the Wrong Direction



= No Change



= Too Early to Know the Trend



Investors Steering Committee

- **Charge:** To coordinate and leverage local investments in community practices and strategic improvement initiatives for the purpose of achieving positive changes in the 33 indicators of community well-being
- **Membership:** MSU, City of Lansing, Ingham County, United Way, local foundations, and health and human service agencies



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



Leadership and Practice Committee

- **Charge:** To capitalize on the power of connections to use community assets to address community and faith-based organizations' challenges
- **Membership:** MSU extension, United Way, City of Lansing, various community and faith-based organizations, etc.



Examples of Supports Provided to Nonprofit Organizations

- Networking events and opportunities
- Technical assistance, training and grants in organization capacity building
- Monthly e-bulletin of capacity building resources
- VISTA members; AmeriCorps is pending
- Resource speakers and connections
- Leadership development opportunities



Sources of Grant Funding – Past and Current

- Kellogg Foundation (“Community Voices” – 9 years via Ingham County Health Dept.)
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (via the Ingham County Health Dept.)
- DHHS – “Compassion Capital Fund”
- Corporation for National and Community Services



The University



Michigan State University Mission

- 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**...



MSU Approach to Community Engagement

- **Becoming embedded in communities**
Working in long-standing partnerships
- **Stressing asset-based solutions**
Focusing on asset-based solutions
- **Building community capacity**
Building capacity within families, businesses, and communities
- **Creating collaborative networks**
Building networks among communities and organizations that lead to sustainable [regional] collaborations

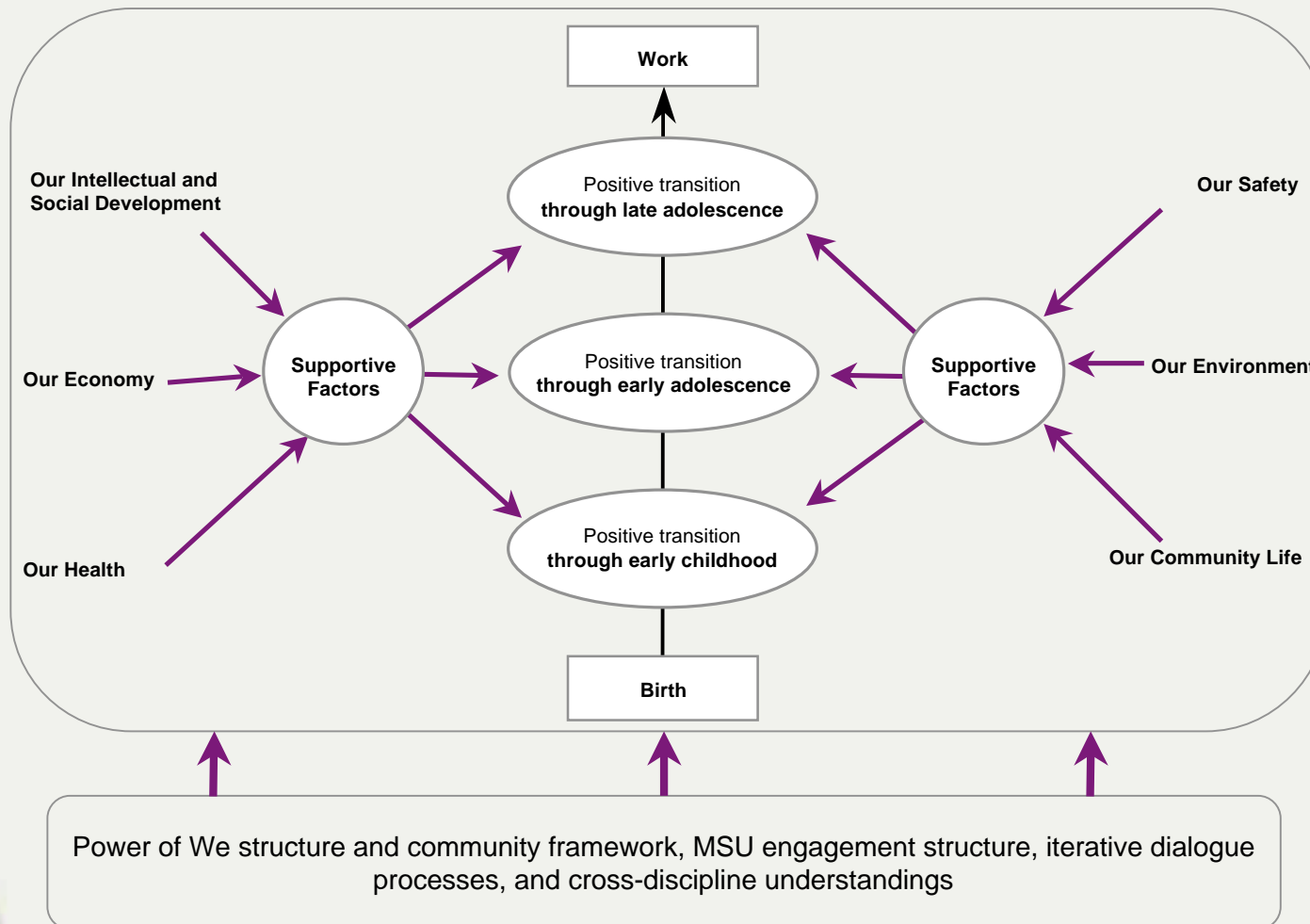


Birth-to-Work Initiative

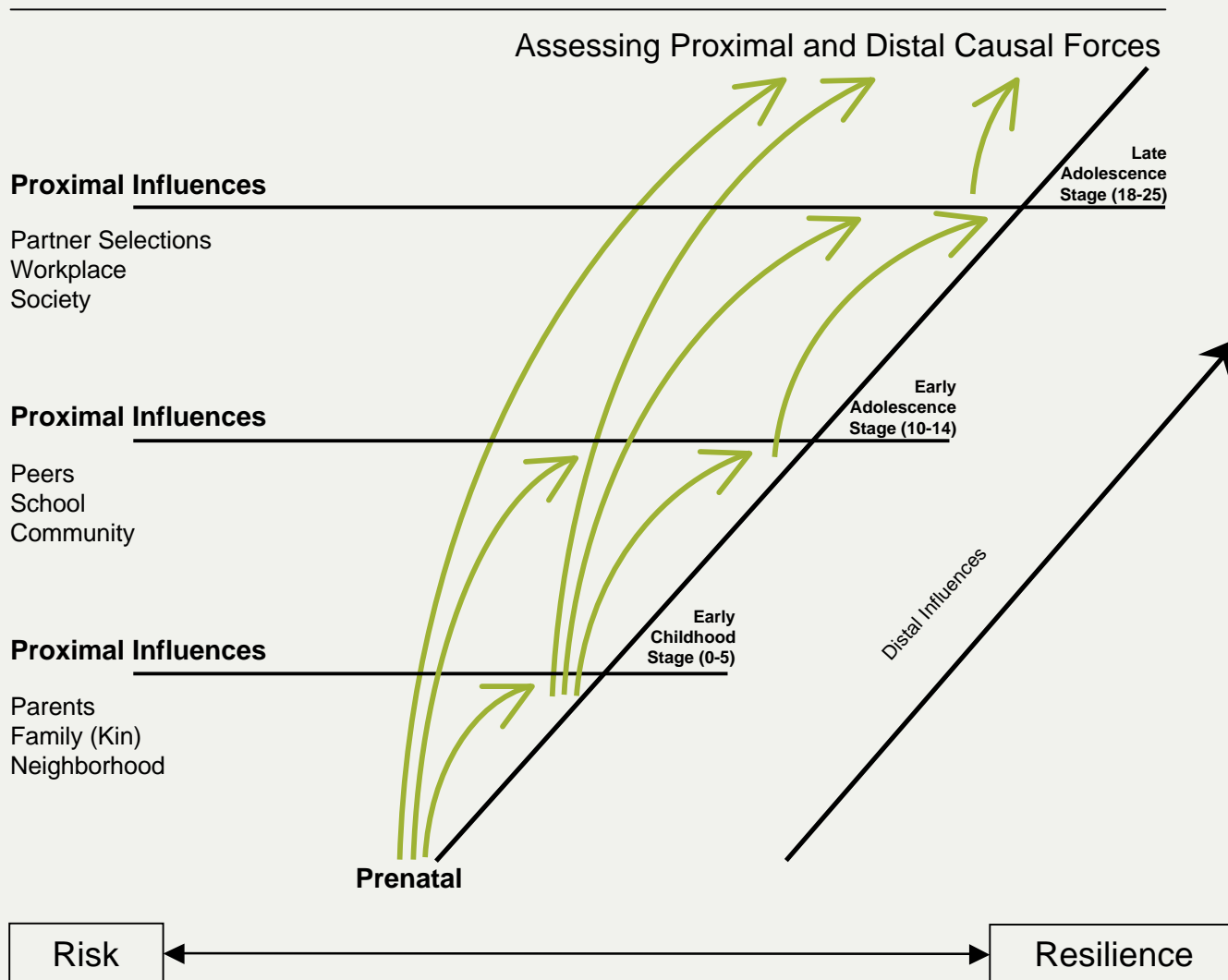
**Power of We Consortium
and Michigan State University**

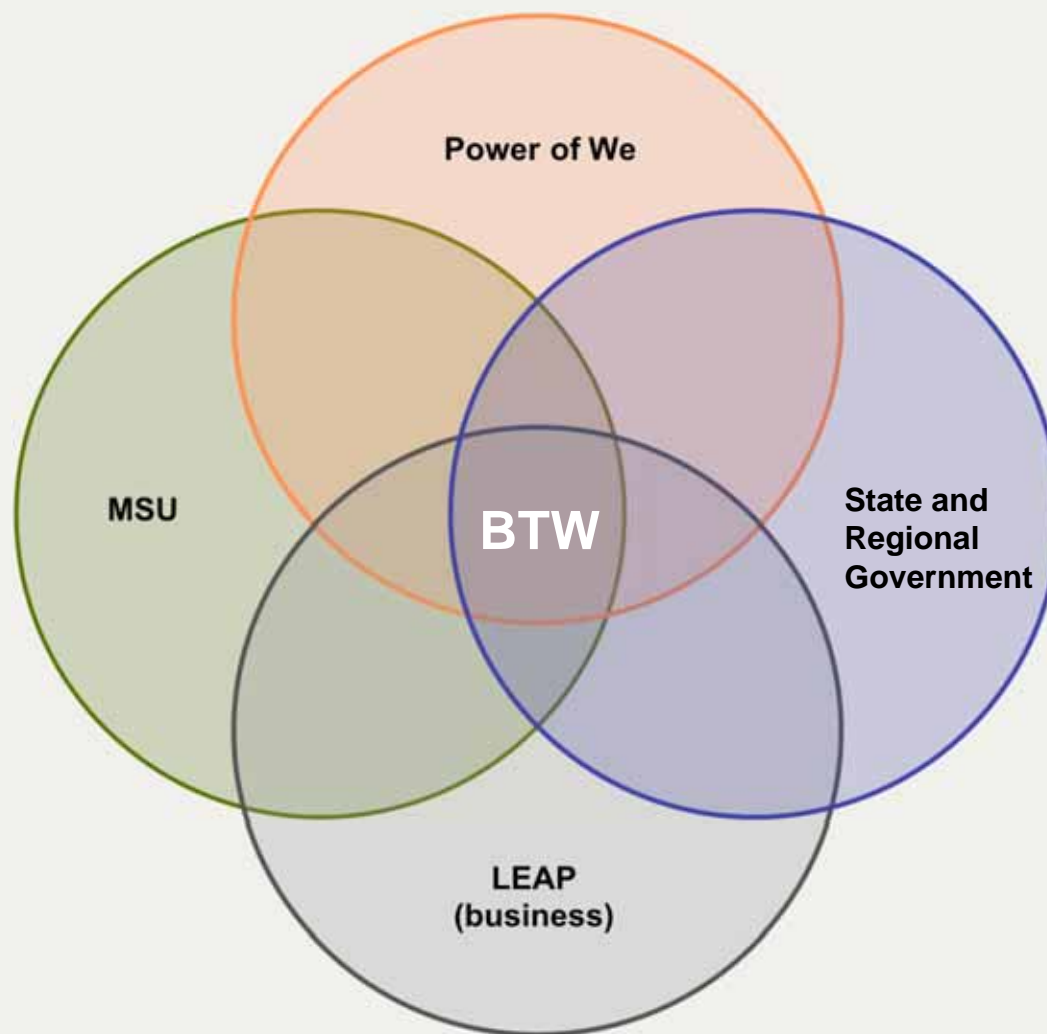


Systemic Perspective on Birth-to-Work Developmental Pathway

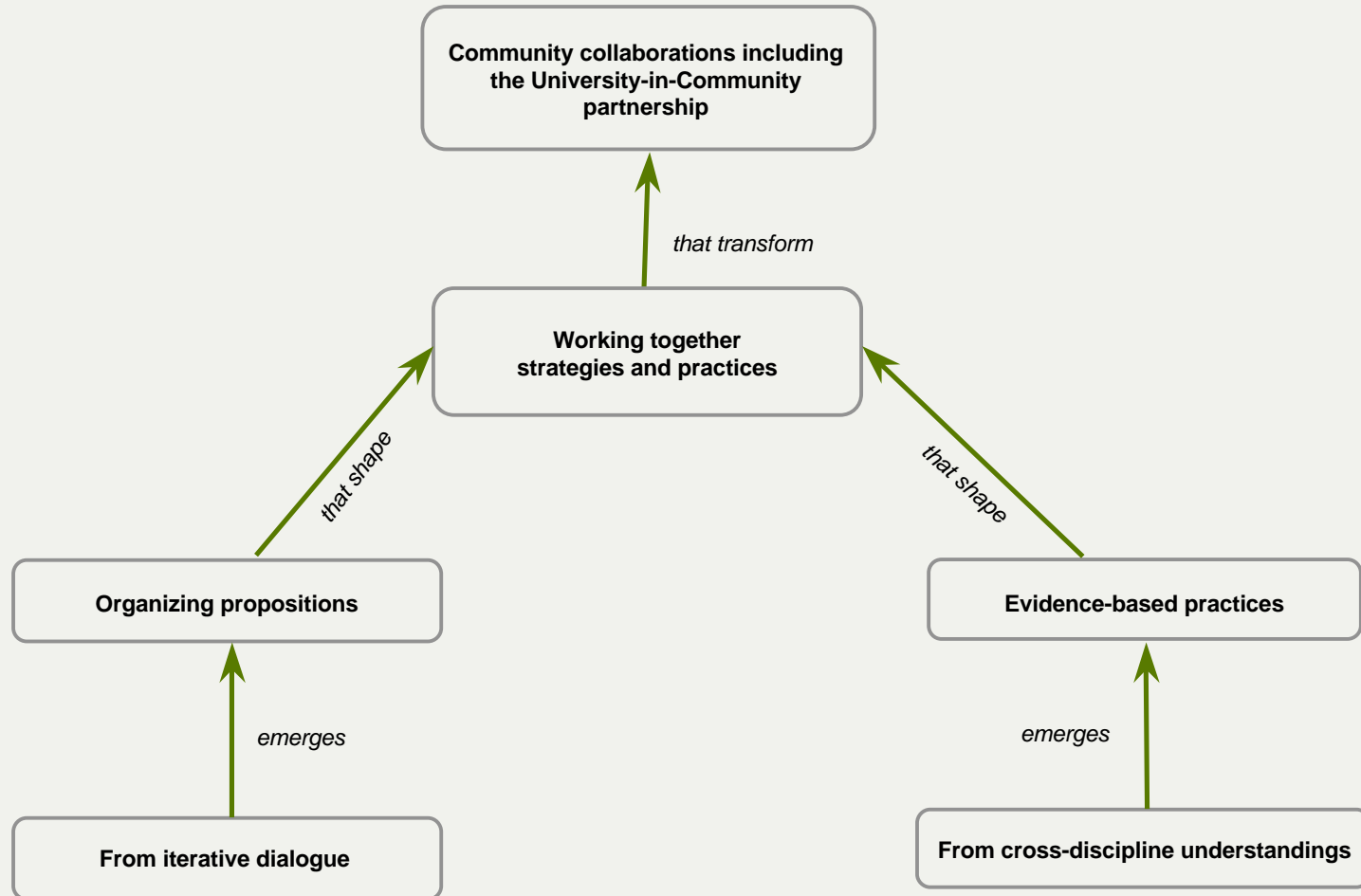


Transitional State, Relationship Impacts

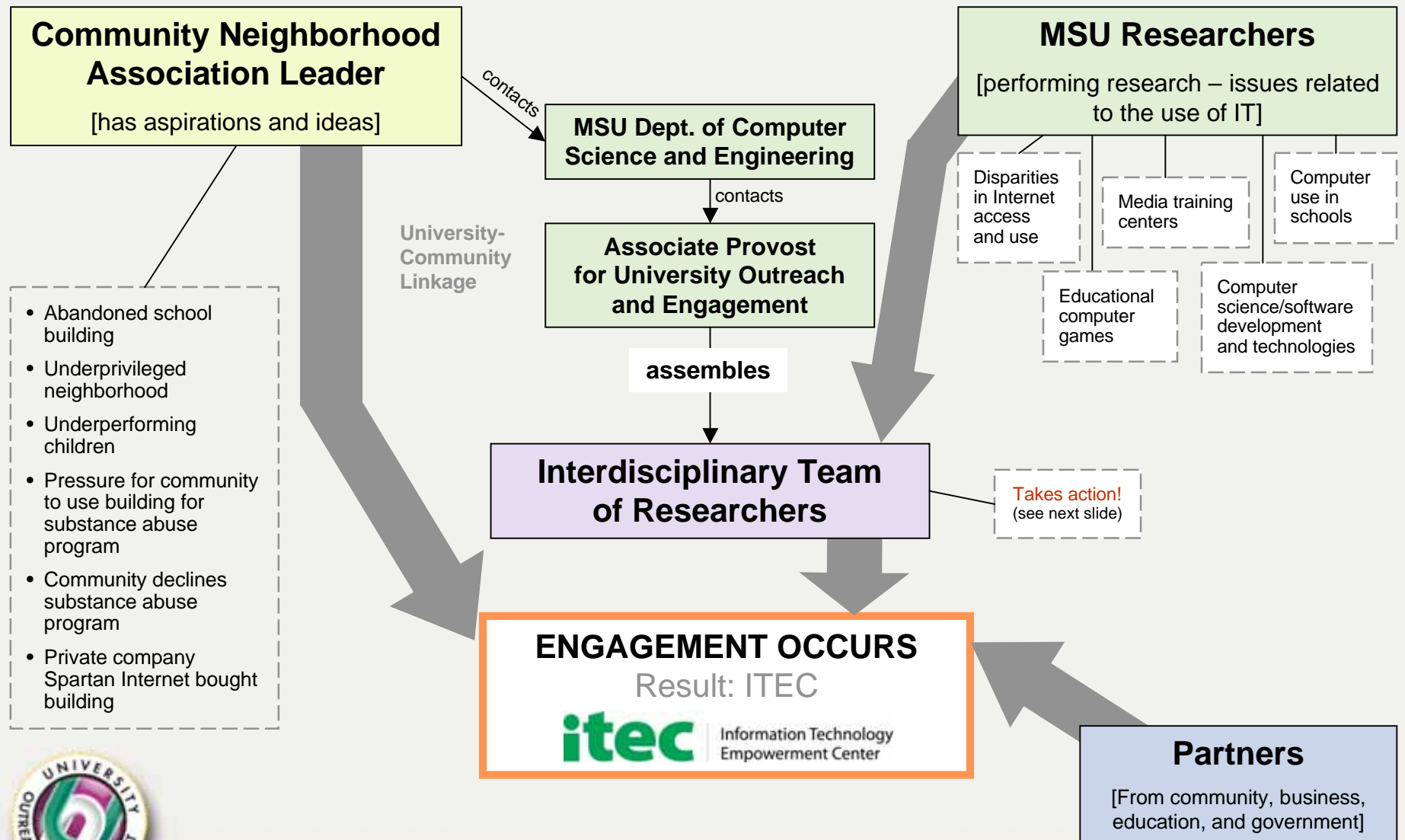




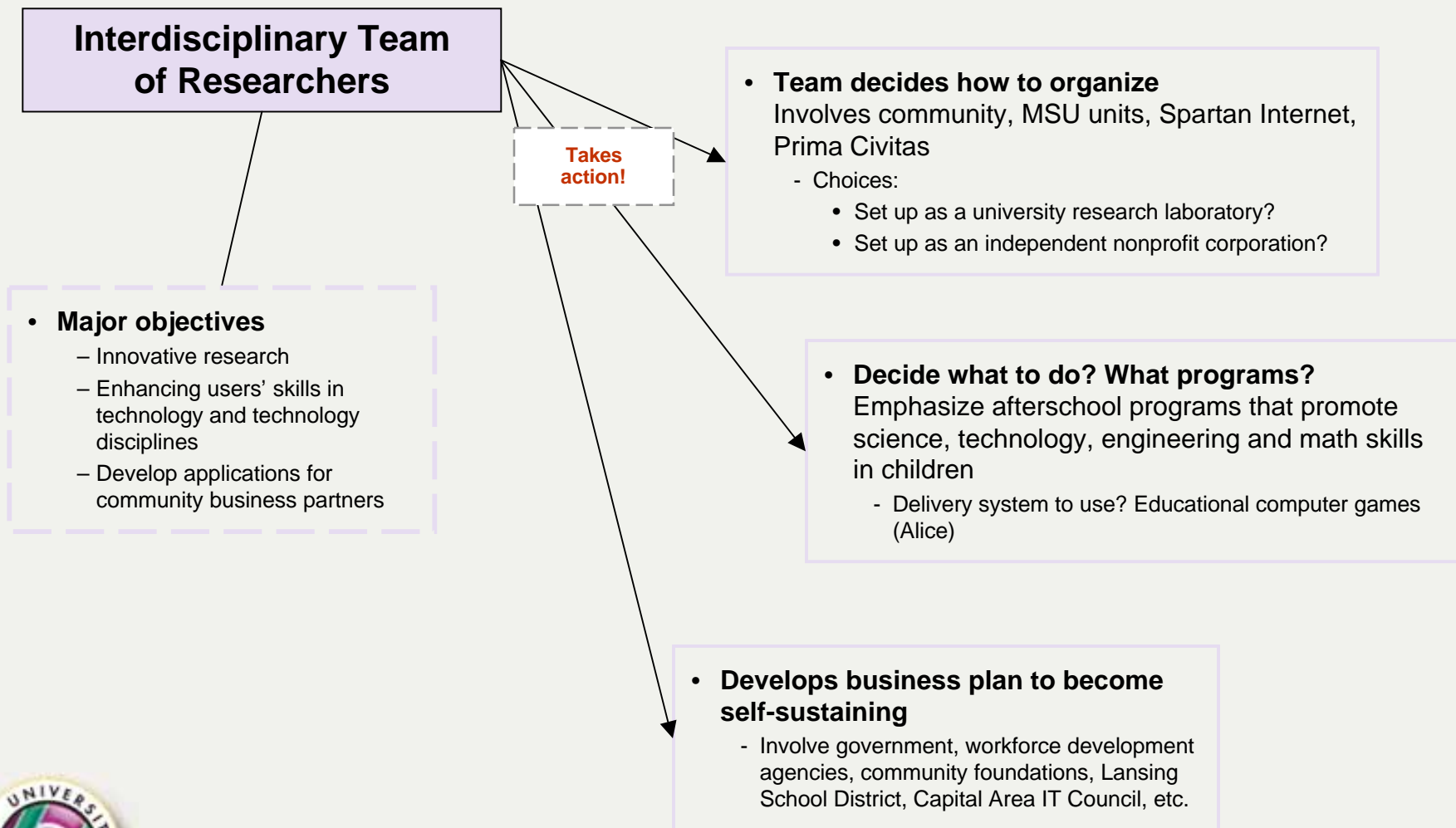
Transforming Dynamics of Community Collaboration



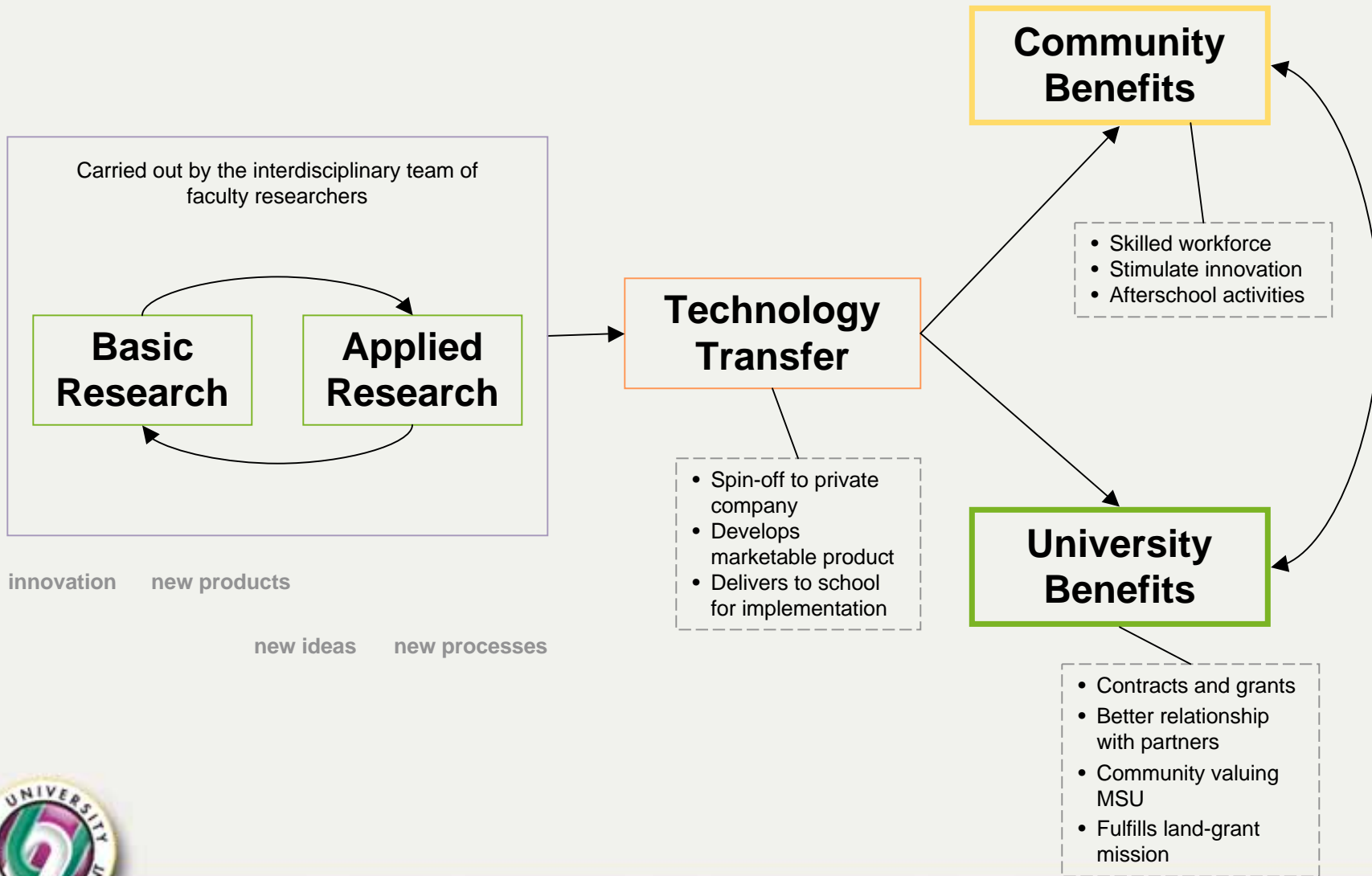
An Approach to University-Community Engagement



Steps Taken by the Interdisciplinary Team



Research Process, Technology Transfer, and Benefits



Contact Information

Hiram E. Fitzgerald

University Outreach and Engagement

Michigan State University
Kellogg Center, Garden Level
East Lansing, MI 48824-1022
Phone: (517) 353-8977
Fax: (517) 432-9541
E-mail: fitzger9@msu.edu
Web site: outreach.msu.edu

