The papers of Dr. Otis R. Bowen are located in Archives and Special Collections at Bracken Library, Ball State University.
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

BOWEN CENTER FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Bowen Center for Public Affairs

Founded in 2007, the Bowen Center for Public Affairs honors the legacy of Dr. Otis R. Bowen. He served as the 44th Governor of Indiana and as U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services under President Ronald Reagan. Otis Bowen was the first medical doctor to head HHS. The roots of the Bowen Center for Public Affairs go back to 1981 when the Bowen Institute on Political Participation was founded to provide an intensive program for involving citizens and students to become more effective civic leaders.

The non-partisan Bowen Center for Public Affairs provides a number of programs and projects that are designed to have lasting impact on communities, states, and the nation. These activities, including teaching, research, and service, are delivered through three units: the Institute on Political Participation, the Institute for Public Service, and the Institute for Policy Research.

The Bowen Center for Public Affairs is allied with the Department of Political Science at Ball State University and is an integral part of the College of Sciences and Humanities. The Center works closely with members of its Board of Advisors, comprised of men and women who are dedicated to civic literacy, community involvement, and public service. Dr. Joseph Losco, professor in the Department of Political Science, directs activities at the center.
Institute on Political Participation

The Institute on Political Participation accepts nominees from around the state to attend an annual weekend session designed to deepen participants’ understanding and knowledge of politics and political management. Leaders in civic organizations, business, education, and labor organizations nominate citizens to participate in the Institute. The sessions are tailored to the questions and concerns of participants and provide first-hand experiences about political activism, governmental communication, campaign techniques, and ethics.

The Institute has attracted speakers and presenters from across the nation and across the political spectrum since 1981. Participants in the Institute are given the opportunity to engage with public officials, members of the media, and political analysts. Many of the 1,200 graduates have since become active participants in civic affairs.
The Bowen Center’s Institute for Public Service consists of ongoing leadership programs that have attracted attention across the nation. The Certified Public Manager® Program (CPM) is nationally accredited and is the only management and leadership program offered in Indiana that is designed specifically for public managers. The two-year program enables elected and appointed public officials to become stronger and more effective supervisors, managers, and leaders. Dr. Charles Taylor directs the CPM program.

In the past, the Bowen Center has also participated in Community Conversations co-sponsored by Indiana Humanities and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. Hoosiers in 20 locations participated in these events that serve as a catalyst for bringing community residents together in an effort to find solutions to such pressing concerns as economic development, education reform, and community building.

The Bowen Center has also participated in a Disability Project to help meet the needs of students with disabilities. Under the direction of Gregory Fehribach and with assistance from the Lilly Corporate Foundation, Eskenazi Health and the Mayor’s Office of Indianapolis, this program provided stipends for interns with disabilities and placed them in responsible positions leading to permanent employment.

The Institute for Public Service has also been called upon to offer non-partisan campaign schools to train interested citizens in the nuts and bolts of running for elective office. These workshops have been conducted in recent years under the sponsorship of the Muncie-Delaware County Chamber of Commerce.
Institute for Policy Research

The Institute for Policy Research conducts university-based, non-partisan research. Partnering with other organizations to meet specific research needs, the Institute for Policy Research tackles projects that range from enhancing election administration and promoting confidence in voting systems to discovering employment opportunities created by recycling. The Institute for Policy Research also conducts an annual survey to determine the priorities Hoosier citizens want their state legislators to address. To accomplish its research mission, the Institute for Policy Research draws upon the talents of Distinguished Fellows of the Bowen Center and academic scholars throughout the country. Among the research projects conducted by the Institute are:

• Annual Hoosier Survey, from 2008 to present
• Assessing and Evaluating Indiana’s Vote Centers: The Development of a National Model
• The Impact of Vote Centers on Early Voting in Indiana
• The Untapped Job Potential of Indiana’s Recycling Industry
• The Illinois Culture of Corruption and Comparisons with Indiana