

## Paris W. McCurdy BIO

Paris W. McCurdy, a native Detroiter, is currently the Director of Community Diversity Initiatives at Ball State University (BSU). He is a former student-athlete who played on the basketball team at BSU. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in general studies and double minoring in business and interpersonal relations, he spent time in professional sports playing in the NFL, NBA, and internationally. From his extensive travels abroad, Paris has the ability to communicate in French, Spanish, and Japanese. He coached high school basketball and worked in community development in the Detroit area before his return to Muncie, where he is still best known for his time with the legendary "Sweet 16" BSU Cardinals of 1990. In his spare time, Paris likes to immerse himself in personal development/self-help resources and activities that offer holistic advancement.

Paris has extensive experience in creating and sustaining community partnerships. Serving as the Director of Community Diversity Initiatives, he is a critical link between the Muncie community and the campus community. He works very closely with the president's office on special matters that tie in with the community at-large. It was his special relationships in the community that influenced the needed support of the Muncie Concerned Clergy to successfully pass the HB1315; a legislative bill that provides Ball State with the responsibility of appointing a new school board to manage the Muncie Community Schools (MCS).

Although his work is ongoing and often times immeasurable, he is very impactful at making BSU's resources inclusive and accessible to the underserved and underrepresented populations in the East Central Indiana region. His focus is helping to restore community trust. Paris' goal is to aid in building an environment that values community diversity and makes all things one. His efforts are valuable to the university's work to be the welcome mat to the City of Muncie.