

Build Peace

April has been a historically violent month in the U.S.A. In an effort to promote nonviolence, the Ball State University Center for Peace and Conflict Studies and students from the School of Art's Visual Communication program hosted Build Peace on April 18 to 20. Co-sponsors for the event were R.A.C.E., AWAKEN, Inc., and the City of Muncie.

Build Peace involved the creation of an 8-foot peace pole via community participation. Participants shared their concept of peace on a colorful paper circle, thereby creating a visual reminder of the diversity and commitment to peace embodied in the BSU and Muncie communities. The resulting peace pole also served to commemorate persons who lost their lives in April as a result of unspeakable tragedies.

Some of the most horrific acts of mass violence in the recent history of the USA have happened during April, including the FBI's siege of the Waco compound that left 76 dead, the Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people, and the Boston Marathon bombing that killed 3 people and injured hundreds more. Even more concerning is the trend of violence on school campuses during April, including the Columbine High School Massacre that left 15 people dead, the Virginia Tech Massacre that resulting in a death toll of 33 persons, and most recently, the shooting at a San Bernardino school, resulting in the death of one person so far.

To promote a message of nonviolence and to remember and honor those who lost their lives in April, for the past ten years, the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies has hosted a series of programs on nonviolence. This year's Build Peace project extends this effort by the Center.

About Us

The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies is an interdisciplinary, university-based unit that pursues research on structural and direct forms of violence and conflict; implements nonviolent strategies to resolve conflict; offers mediation services to individuals, groups, and organizations; and trains people in conflict resolution, mediation, peace-building, leadership, meditation, and sportspersonship skills. It also pursues public diplomacy, sports diplomacy, and cultural exchange as part of local, regional, national, and international projects designed to promote mutual understanding, appreciation, cooperation, and respect.

To stay up to date with news and information about the Peace Center, call (765) 285-1622, [email us](#) to sign up for our discussion list, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#), and sign up for our [newsletters](#)! We welcome hearing from you!