



**BALL STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

## **Memorandum for Record**

February 27, 2018

In late 2017, this center was asked to perform a detailed economic overview of Muncie. That work has been ongoing for several months. We recently decided to expedite publication of the population section of this study in the wake of several local media pieces (reporting and Op-Ed) that mistakenly report population growth in Muncie.

In the course of preparing this work, we reviewed both academic studies and all publicly available data sources. We also reviewed two funded studies, which we determined to be the source of the mistaken reports of population growth in Muncie (Zanola Company, LLC, 2016 and Farris and Fallon, 2017). Much of the accompanying study is allocated to explaining serious problems with these studies.

As we detail in the report, these studies suffer from a number of serious flaws. Most critically, the Zanola study cites Census projections of Muncie population growth that do not exist (the US Census does not conduct subnational projections). They also cite Census population estimates for 2016 over six months prior to their official release, misreport data for each of the years under consideration (2000, 2010, and 2016), and misrepresent growth rates between periods by failing to adjust for different lengths of time.

The Zanola study errors are not random and cannot be the result of simple citation or arithmetic error. The data and analysis appear fabricated, and several requests of the authors to supply supporting information failed to identify the source of these data. In addition, the Fallon and Farris, 2017 study unambiguously plagiarized the Zanola study, repeating nearly all its mistakes.

Both studies carefully avoided a vast array of existing data, reports, and studies that disagree with their operating thesis of a growing local population. Much of this work was prepared during a period in which at least one of the authors was employed by Ball State, where many of these studies were published. Both Mr. Fallon and Mr. Farris attended public presentations of these studies and were aware of the Census data cited by the authors.

As a consequence of fabricated data and plagiarism of fabricated data, neither study can provide useful information regarding population, housing, or demographic information.

Professional organizations or academic institutions with which these authors are affiliated should sanction these members for violating universal standards of scholarship.

Michael J. Hicks, Ph.D.  
*Director and George & Frances Ball Distinguished Professor*

**Miller College of Business**

**Center for Business and Economic Research**

Muncie, Indiana 47306-0360 | Phone: 765-285-5926 | [cber@bsu.edu](mailto:cber@bsu.edu) | [bsu.edu/cber](http://bsu.edu/cber)