

# BESTBUDDIES®

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



COMMUNITY LEADERS AGENDA!

BEST BUDDIES



WICKEDLY  
INCLUSIVE

#BBLC2025



# FRIDAY

7.18.25

4:30-6:00 PM

## Community Leaders Welcome Reception

Room: Indiana Memorial Union, Solarium (Floor 1)

Join Community Leaders from around the country for a celebratory gathering with appetizers, beverages, music, networking, and friendship.

6:30-7:15 PM

## State Welcome Meetings

Room: Hodge Hall (*State Room Assignment Coming Soon!*)

Meet with your state or regional delegation to make introductions and review what's in store for BBLC weekend. Check with your state staff for more information!





FRIDAY  
7.18.25

7:15-8:00 PM

*Transition to Indiana University Auditorium*

8:00-10:00 PM

## **Best Buddies Leadership Conference Opening Ceremonies**

**Room: Indiana University Auditorium**

Conference attendees from all over the world enter the Indiana University Auditorium with energy and excitement as they are welcomed by our Founder & Chairman, Anthony Kennedy Shriver, and various other speakers and performers.





# SATURDAY

7.19.25

7:00-8:00 AM

## Breakfast

Room: Indiana Memorial Union, Starbucks (Floor 1)

Ease into the day with breakfast at your own pace. Use your IMU card to grab something you love. Once you're fueled up, join us in the auditorium to kick off a great day together (you can walk or grab a shuttle on campus)!

8:00-8:30 AM

## *Transition to Indiana University Auditorium*

8:30-8:45 AM

## Conference Welcome

Room: Indiana University Auditorium

8:45-10:00 AM

## Keynote Session

Room: Indiana University Auditorium

### Speaker:

Kevin Wanzer

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10:00-10:30 AM

## *Transition to Indiana Memorial Union (IMU) & Snack Break*





SATURDAY

7.19.25

10:30 AM-12:00 PM

## Sharing Your Why

Room: Indiana Memorial Union, Tudor Room  
(Floor 1)

### Best Buddies International Speakers:

**Lise Lozelle** | Senior Director, State  
Communications & Engagement

**Cary Ombres** | SVP of Global Mission Impact &  
Engagement

Discovering what motivates you most about Best Buddies and how to effectively share your story and inspire others to join the movement.

12:00-1:00 PM

## Lunch

Room: Indiana Memorial Union, Tudor Room  
(Floor 1)

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# SATURDAY

7.19.25

1:00-2:15 PM

## The Yellow Brick Roundtable

**Room:** Indiana Memorial Union, Tudor Room (Floor 1)

Engage in facilitated table breakout sessions where you will discuss various topics related to your role with Best Buddies as well as any challenges, opportunities, and successes you would like to share about.

2:15-3:00 PM

## Our Global Mission Impact

**Room:** Indiana Memorial Union, Tudor Room (Floor 1)

### Best Buddies International Speakers:

**Stephanie Moore** | SVP, Mission Advancement & Field Operations

**Cary Ombres** | SVP, Global Mission Impact & Engagement

**Lisa Derx** | VP, Government Relations

Hear an overview of the progress we've made as an organization towards our programmatic and fundraising goals this year.

3:00-3:15 PM

## Break







**3:15-4:00 PM**

### **Better Together: A Friendship Panel**

**Room: Indiana Memorial Union, Tudor Room (Floor 1)**

Panelists who play different roles in our programs will share their personal experiences, the impact of inclusive friendships, and how Best Buddies has shaped their lives.

**4:00-5:30 PM**

### **Emerald City Expo**

**Room: Indiana Memorial Union, Alumni Hall (Floor 1)**

Become well-versed on how all of our various programs work as you visit booths hosted by experts from the field. Learn how you can take action and support your area's local programs!

**5:30-7:00 PM**

### **Break**



SATURDAY

7.19.25

7:00-7:30 PM

### Optional Shuttle to Evening Activity

If you would like to attend the evening activity (Yellow Brick Bash), meet in the Indiana Memorial Union lobby at 7pm for a shuttle with other Community Leaders.

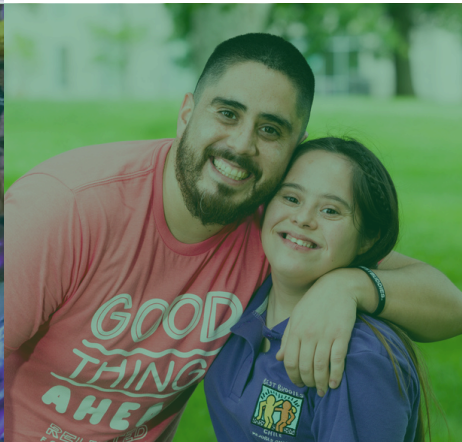
You may also choose to go out for a bite to eat and out on the town in Bloomington with other Community Leaders (walk, Uber/Lyft).

7:30-10:00 PM

### Yellow Brick Bash (Optional)

#### Simon Skjodt Assembly Hall

Meet up with your area's delegation and enjoy festivities with the rest of our conference attendees!







# SUNDAY

7.20.25

7:00-8:00 AM

## **Breakfast**

**Room: Indiana Memorial Union, Starbucks (Floor 1)**

Ease into the day with breakfast at your own pace. Use your IMU card for breakfast at Starbucks to grab something you love. Once you're fueled up, join us in the auditorium to kick off another great day together!

8:00-8:30 AM

## ***Transition to Indiana University Auditorium***

8:30-10:00 AM

## **General Conference Attendee Sessions**

**Room: Indiana University Auditorium**

10:00-10:30 AM

## ***Transition to Indiana Memorial Union***



10:30-11:30 AM

## **Eunie's Buddies and the Future of Inclusion**

**Room: Indiana Memorial Union, Tudor Room (Floor 1)**

Learn more about our newest program pillar, Family Support, and how to help the Eunie's Buddies program grow throughout the country.



BEST BUDDIES



# SUNDAY

7.20.25

10:30-11:30 AM

## Where Your Why Meets Action

**Room:** Indiana Memorial Union, Tudor Room (Floor 1)

Now that you've determined your *why* learn tangible ways to engage others in our mission and put a personal plan into action for when you return home.

12:15-1:15 PM

## Lunch (Optional)

**Room:** Indiana Memorial Union, Food Court (Main Level)

If you're still on campus, feel free to head on over to Indiana Memorial Union's food court for a bite to eat.

1:30-3:00 PM

## World Café (Optional)

**Room:** Indiana Memorial Union, Alumni Hall (Floor 1)

Serve as a facilitator for rotating, round-table discussions with high school students from around the world.



3:00-3:30 PM

## Break







# SUNDAY

7.20.25

**3:30-5:00 PM**

## **Ambassador Speeches (Optional)**

**Room: Indiana Memorial Union, Whittenberger Auditorium**  
(Floor 1)

Be a part of the audience for Ambassadors from around the world and cheer them on as they share speeches they've worked on for the duration of the conference!

**5:00-6:30 PM**

## **Dinner on your Own!**

**McNutt Dining Hall or out on the town in Bloomington**

Your choice of a nostalgic dinner at the McNutt Dining Hall (take a campus shuttle) or out on the town in Bloomington!

**6:30-7:00 PM**

## ***Transition to Indiana University Auditorium***

**7:00-8:30 PM**

## **Best Buddies Leadership Conference Closing Ceremonies**

**Room: Indiana University Auditorium**

**8:30-9:00 PM**

## ***Transition to Indiana Memorial Union***

**9:00-11:00 PM**

## **Festival of Friendship**

**Room: Indiana Memorial Union, Alumni Hall**  
(Floor 1)

Dancing, karaoke, billiards, bowling & more!



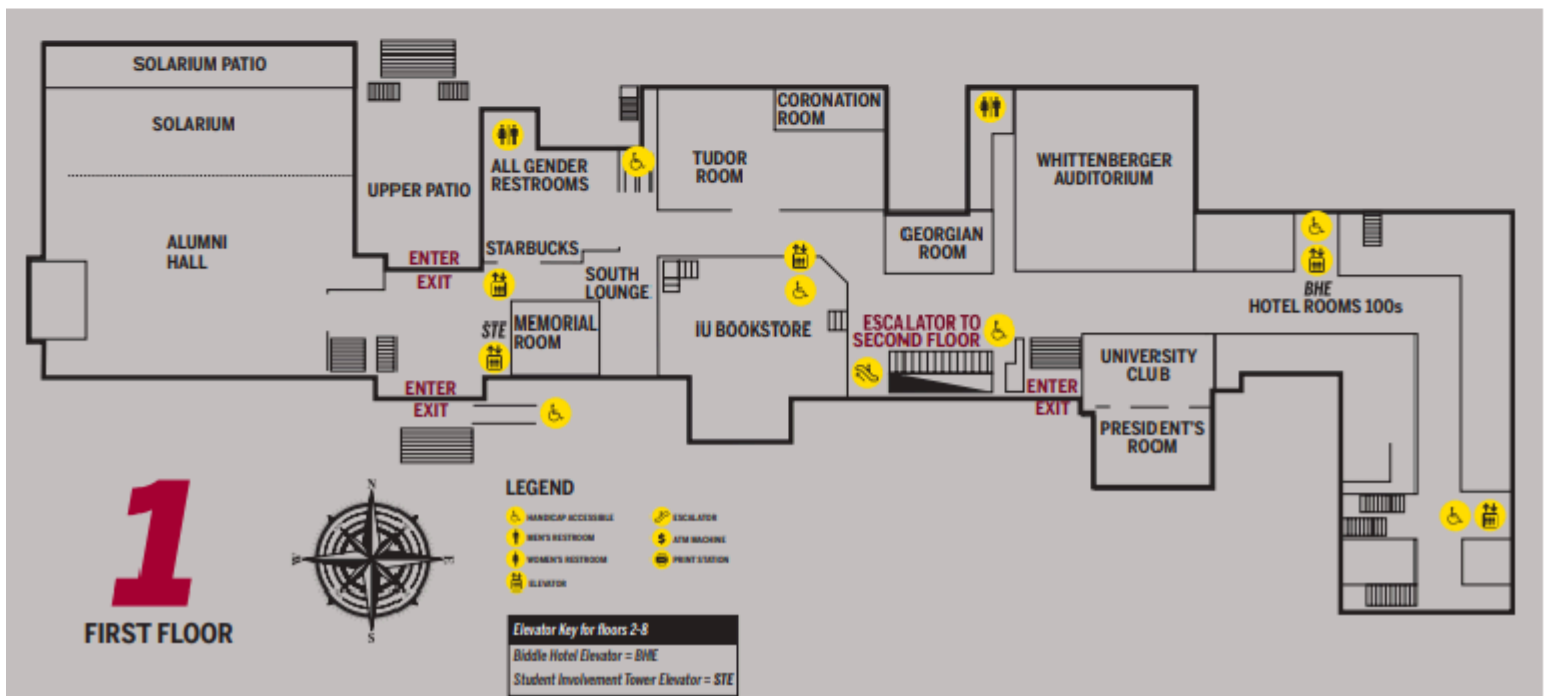
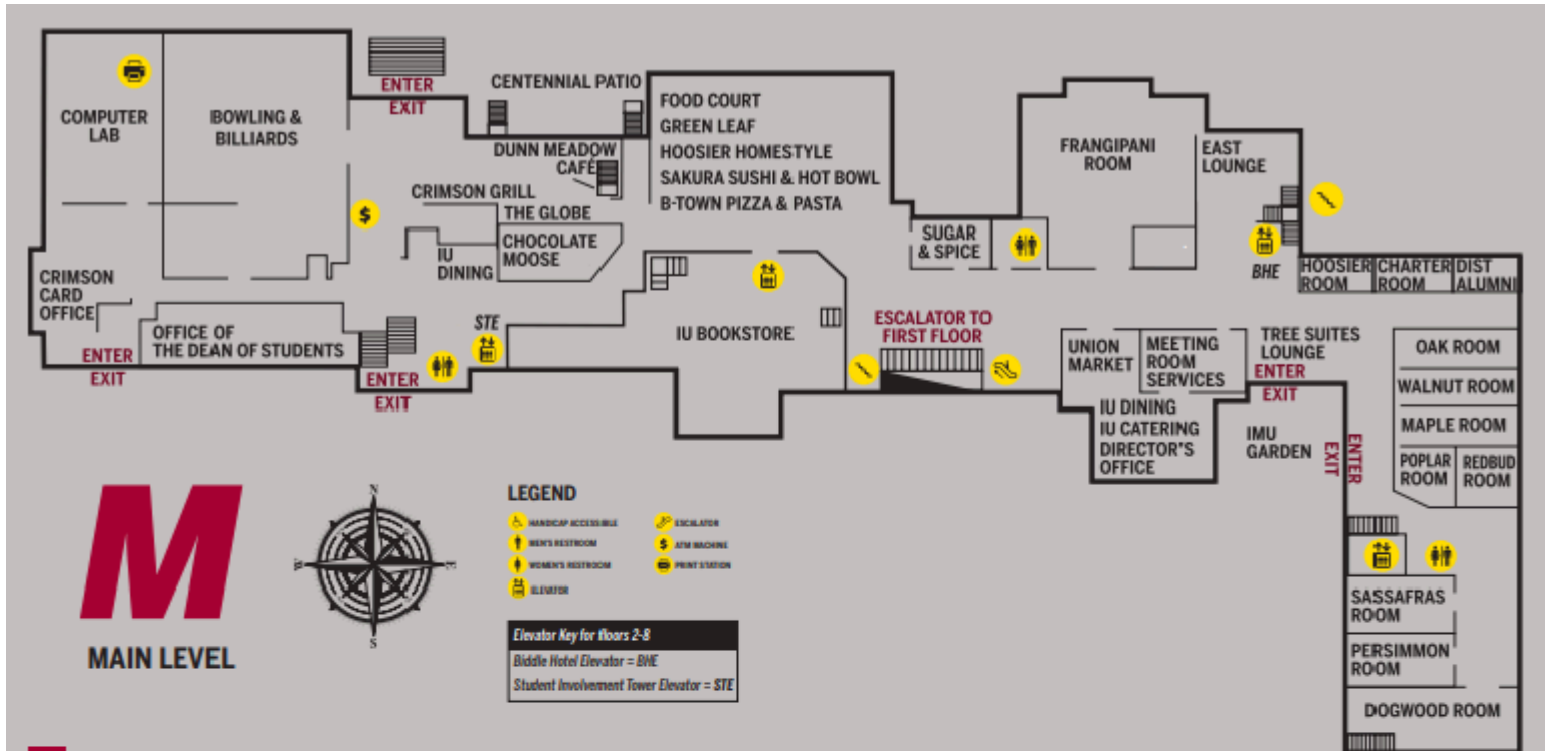
# CAMPUS MAP





# FLOOR MAPS

## INDIANA MEMORIAL UNION



## BLOOMINGTON RESTAURANT RECOMMENDATIONS

### RUSH BOWLS

Acai bowls and smoothies

### BLOOMINGTON THAI

Asian Fusion



### UPTOWN CAFE

Fine dining, “American Casual” style; Cajun flavors, with nods to both regional and European cuisines

### SMOKEWORKS

Memphis-Style dry rub barbecue joint

### OSTERIA RAGO

Casual Italian served simply in a rustic environment

### MOTHER BEAR’S PIZZA

Deep-dish pizzas and American snacks, plus beer & wine

### UPLAND BEER CO.

Contemporary pub grub accompanies rotating house brews in a comfy space with a patio

### MURA SUSHI & KOREAN

Traditional Korean dishes and Sushi

### SOCIAL CANTINA

Hip restaurant serving tequila, craft beers & classic Mexican dishes

### FARMBLOOMINGTON

All-day café with a funky vintage vibe, modern farmhouse-inspired cuisine

*Click on the name of each restaurant to view their menu!*



# RECOMENDED PACKING LIST



## Important Travel Items

- ☐ Travel Documents (passport, license, birth certificate, etc.)
- ☐ Wallet and money for incidentals (credit/debit card and/or cash)
- ☐ Medications
- ☐ Health insurance information
- ☐ Phone and charger



## Clothing & Shoes

- ☐ Casual clothes for traveling
- ☐ Light sweatshirt or jacket
- ☐ Pajamas
- ☐ Undergarments
- ☐ Best Buddies gear to represent the mission!
- ☐ Casual clothing for conference training sessions (shorts, t-shirts, jeans, shorts, etc.)



## Accessories

- ☐ Re-usable Water Bottle
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Hat/Cap
- ☐ Book
- ☐ Sleep mask
- ☐ Ear plugs
- ☐ Notebook
- ☐ Writing utensils
- ☐ Small purse or fanny pack



- ☐ Rock your Best Buddies pride and bring out your walking shoes for the Friendship Walk on Saturday night. Bonus points for glow gear, tutus, or anything festive and walk-friendly!
- ☐ Dress to Impress...Oz Style! Think Wicked-inspired glam for Sunday night's Festival of Friendship. Emerald green everything, pretty pinks, sparkles, bold makeup, and magical vibes. Channel your inner Glinda or Elphaba—or invent your own fantastical twist on Oz fashion!
- ☐ Casual shoes (sandals, flip flops, sneakers, etc.) for conference training sessions
- ☐ Sneakers or comfortable, casual shoes for evening events and walking around campus



## Toiletries

- ☐ Toothpaste and toothbrush
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Face wash
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Makeup
- ☐ Shower products (shampoo, conditioner, soap, shower shoes) and accessories (hairbrush, etc.)



## Comforts of Home

- ☐ Indiana University will provide basic amenities, however we highly recommend bringing your favorite sleep essentials to ensure a good nights rest
- ☐ Blanket and pillow (IU will provide sheets, thin blanket, and pillow)
- ☐ Extra bath towel, hand towel, and washcloth (IU will provide one of each)
- ☐ Sound machine or noise app (with headphones)







## Questions?

Contact [KristenStarcher@BestBuddies.org](mailto:KristenStarcher@BestBuddies.org)