

Mr. Jay Caponigro,  
1<sup>st</sup> District Trustee SBCSC



**Jay Caponigro**  
**Director**  
**Community Engagement**  
**University of Notre Dame**

Mr. Jay Caponigro has been the director of community engagement at the University since March 1, 2010. In this position, Caponigro assists Mr. Tim Sexton, associate vice president for Public Affairs in the development, execution and measurement of Notre Dame's efforts to strengthen and enhance its relationship with the local community. Caponigro holds a Masters in Religious Studies degree from the University of Chicago, a BA in Government and International Studies and a Certificate in Executive Education from the University of Notre Dame.

Caponigro was founding director of Notre Dame's Robinson Community Learning Center in 2001. There he acquired first-hand knowledge of the challenges and strengths of the Northeast Neighborhood by forging relationships with community organizations, leaders, and residents, as well as university partners. As director, he managed two community-based violence prevention projects with funding through the U.S. Department of Justice; guided Notre Dame's Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC) through a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and wrote and managed a U.S. Small Business Administration grant for youth entrepreneurship.

Caponigro serves on numerous community boards, including the South Bend Community School Corporation, the Center for the Homeless, The Children's Campus, the South Bend Public Education Foundation, and others. He has spoken at numerous conferences in his field and co-published in the *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement*, *Christian Higher Education*, and the series Perspectives on Violence and Violent Death. In 2004, he received the "Man of the Year" award from Urban Youth Services of St. Joseph County's YMCA.

Before joining the staff at Notre Dame, Caponigro served from 1995-1999 as the Executive Director and Lead Organizer of Chicago's Southwest Organizing Project, creating a broad-based partnership of 25 churches and schools on the city's racially diverse Southwest side.

Caponigro lives in South Bend with his wife, Lyn Caponigro, and their four children. In his personal time, he enjoys coaching youth soccer, and playing hockey with Notre Dame's faculty team.