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INDIANA'S GREAT SOUTHWEST

the new frontier for talent and business

Indiana's Great Southwest takes center stage at Site Selectors Guild Annual Conference

Indiana's Great Southwest is one of the key sponsors for the upcoming Site Selectors Guild (SSG) Annual Conference, the most important economic development site selector conference held in the nation. This year's conference is being hosted by the City of Nashville, Tennessee from February 24 to 26, 2016. The sold-out premiere event offers a unique opportunity to interact with top site selection consultants and other economic development colleagues during three days of programming and networking.

Professional site selectors represent nearly 10 percent of all global economic development projects during a calendar year with many being high investment, high wage endeavors. Approximately 20 years ago, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana was one such project whose continued investment has helped reshape Gibson County and Southwest Indiana.

"The Coalition is in the business of promoting the Southwest Indiana brand to this influential group," said Greg Wathen, President & CEO of the Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana. "With Regional Cities and new companies as well as investment moving to the area, the story is more exciting each year to tell."

The Coalition has been a gold sponsor of this event since its inception and the benefit to Southwest Indiana is illustrated in the strong business relationships that have come to Indiana's Great Southwest because of it. As a gold sponsor, the Coalition will host a private luncheon for 10 Guild members to discuss all things Southwest Indiana.



Funding Rounds Announced

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) has released its 2016 calendar. This year's schedule reflects two funding rounds for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) opportunities as well as changes in the process for applying. Instead of an application proposal being due in advance of the

application, a Letter of Intent is now due.

Dates of importance for community partners interested in pursuing Drinking Water projects, Waste Water projects, Storm Water projects, Public Facilities projects and the Comprehensive Site Redevelopment program are listed below:

- 02/29- Round 1 Open Call for Letters of Intent
- 04/08- Round 1 Letters of Intent Due

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Economic Indicators

Average Wage Per Job

Within Indiana

- Indy-Carmel - \$46,847
- Evansville - \$41,460
- Ft. Wayne - \$40,722
- S. Bend-Mishawaka - \$40,150

Peer Communities

- Chattanooga, TN - \$43,340
- Davenport-Moline, IA - \$45,429
- Peoria, IL - \$50,743
- Spartanburg, SC - \$42,494

Source: STATS Indiana & Bureau of Labor Statistics (2014)

DID YOU KNOW?

Since 2007, the Coalition has played a role in helping its local community and economic development organization partners bring over \$2.8 billion investment and over 3,790 jobs to the region. In addition, the Coalition's Community Development team has assisted communities within Gibson, Posey, Vanderburgh and Warrick counties to garner almost \$74 million in grants for infrastructure and quality of place projects. And, with the new Regional Cities initiative, that number will

- 06/10- Round 1 Applications Due
- 06/20- Round 2 Open Call for Letters of Intent
- 07/21- Round 1 Announced
- 08/19- Round 2 Letters of Intent Due
- 10/14- Round 2 Applications Due
- 12/01- Round 2 Announced

increase to \$116 million.

If your community is interested in pursuing these grant opportunities, please contact [Carol Hagedorn](#) or [Karen Conia](#) at 812-423-2020 to begin working through the process.

Is Your Business Expanding?

At [The Coalition](#), we understand that companies like yours have unique needs, and we are specially qualified to assist you and your Indiana business. We can help you **expand and grow your business** with services that are free and confidential. Our coordinated approaches to business will save you time and effort. We connect you with all the right groups and work closely on your behalf with state and local development officials to find your best solution. Contact Nancy Deig at ndeig@southwestindiana.org.

Safety Training for Local Businesses - Feb. 25

The Coalition and Ivy Tech Community College Southwest are hosting a discussion group of area company representatives to discuss safety training. During the Feb. 25 event, group participants will be asked to offer feedback regarding safety training programs (including HAZWOPER, OSHA, Confined Space Entry, Asbestos, Lead, Arsenic, Wastewater, IDEM or EPA regulated credentials, etc.) and the need for a local source for such training. If you would like to join this discussion group, please contact [Audrie Burkett](#) at 812-423-2020 to submit your reservation.

Date: 2/25/16
Time: 7:30-9:00 a.m.
Location: *Coalition offices at 318 Main Street, Ste. 400, Evansville, IN 47708*

Coalition Board of Directors Announced

The 2016 Board of Directors were voted on at the January Executive Board Meeting, welcoming 8 new members:

- David Oldham
- Pete Paradossi
- Mayor Brad Schmitt (Princeton)
- Kevin Wilson
- Paul Waters
- Mayor Charlie Wyatt (Boonville)
- Posey County Chamber
- Appointee - TBD

A full list of directors can be seen on the [Coalition web site](#).

BUSINESS FOCUS:



Stoll Keenon Ogden, PLLC

Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC is a full-service law firm with 140 attorneys in five locations across Indiana, Kentucky and Pennsylvania. In the Evansville-area, our work focuses on environmental and mineral law. We also handle tax matters, banking, real estate, trusts & estates, and tort, trial & insurance business. Learn more at skorfirm.com.

Published by:



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