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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COALITION
OF SOUTHWEST INDIANA

June 2015

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Southwest Indiana News

Coalition staff changes and strategic marketing continues

The Coalition is pleased to announce two new additions to the team - Carol Hagedorn and Audrie Burkett. Carol Hagedorn will be assuming the role of *Vice President, Community Development* and Audrie Burkett joins the Coalition staff as *Executive Assistant*. Debbie Bennett-Steersman will become the new *Director of Special Projects*, which will allow Debbie to have greater flexibility in her work schedule while enabling [The Coalition](#) to leverage her extensive skills and expertise.



Since January 2003, Carol has served as Vice President of Economic and Community Development for the *Perry County Economic Development Corporation*. Carol holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Journalism from *Penn State University* and is certified in Community Development through the Indiana Office for Community and Rural Affairs. She also has a Certified Economic Development (CECd) designation from the International Economic Development Council.



Audrie is a graduate of *Purdue University* with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Communication. Since 2012, Audrie worked as the executive assistant for co-founder and CMO Angie Hicks at *Angie's List*. Audrie also served as co-chair on the *Angie's List Foundation Advisory Board*.

Karen Conia, who has been with the Coalition for the past four years, is moving to the position of Community Development Specialist and was just recently certified in Community Development through the Indiana Office for Community and Rural Affairs.

Two staffing changes occurred in May and June with both Megan Southwell and Wylie Zeigler departing the Coalition prompting the adjustments outlined above. The Coalition continues to adapt so as to reflect the ever-changing needs of the [communities we serve](#).

Consultant Connect, a company that bridges the gap between leading economic developers and location consultants, hosted its third conference in its Summit Series in Atlanta, Georgia. A small number of economic development organizations, including

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Visit at www.stmarys.org.

Economic Indicators Non-farm Average Earnings per Job

WITHIN INDIANA

Indy-Carmel-\$54,139
Evansville, IN-KY-\$51,145
Ft. Wayne - \$47,803
S. Bend-Mishawaka-\$48,434

PEER COMMUNITIES

Chattanooga, TN -\$49,223
Davenport-Moline IA -

the Coalition met with site selectors and location consultants showcasing communities.

Opportunities to meet face-to-face with site selectors are critical as the Coalition uses this vehicle to provide updates about the region's new developments like *Haier America's R&D Tech Center*, Toyota's latest investment; and, new air service to Charlotte and Chicago through American Airlines/US Air and United Airlines.

"Southwest Indiana's presence at these events benefit the region and help further relationships with consultants and decision-makers," said Greg Wathen. "Southwest Indiana is growing in the right direction; and, with the possibility of being selected as a 'Regional City' by the *Indiana Economic Development Corporation* (IEDC), the interest is even greater in the region."

Community Development News



Princeton Unveils a "Stellar" Theatre & Community Center

The City of Princeton's newly renovated *Theatre and Community Center* officially lit-up the night with the unveiling of the restored neon marquee. The marquee was turned on while the song "On Broadway" provided a fitting introduction. The Theatre is yet another project in the Stellar Communities program, which the City received \$22 million to improve quality-of-place projects.

The program is a multi-agency partnership with the *Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority* (IHCDA), *Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs* (IOCRA), and *Indiana Department of Transportation* (IDOT); and, is designed to fund comprehensive community development projects. The Theatre hosts The Broadway Players with the venues first production, *Gypsy*, on July 31.



With a new deadline of **August 31** and additional guidelines issued by the *Indiana Economic Development Corporation* (IEDC), the Southwest Indiana's Regional Cities team is using the extra time to fine tune

\$52,936
Peoria, IL - \$56,657
Spartanburg, SC-\$50,503

Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)



projects being considered for inclusion in the region's proposal.

Last month, Indiana's legislature approved **\$84 million** to fund the *Regional Cities Initiative*, which is designed to attract and retain talent. The Coalition is funding and coordinating the Southwest Indiana proposal and is using a consulting team of the *Lochmueller Group*, *Garner Economics* and *VPS Architecture*. The Evansville and Southwest Indiana Regional Cities initiative will soon launch its web site to solicit additional comments and ideas for the plan.

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