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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COALITION
OF **SOUTHWEST INDIANA**

July 2015

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Southwest Indiana News

Haier®

Haier America's new Research & Development Tech Center scheduled to officially unveil on July 14 represents the first major Chinese investment in Southwest Indiana as well as a rebirth in the appliance sector for the City of Evansville.

Haier America is a wholly owned subsidiary of Haier Group, the world's #1 major appliance brand and a global leader in consumer electronics. Haier employs more than 70,000 people around the world and distributes products in more than 100 countries and regions with global revenues reaching \$32.1 billion in 2014.

Haier America's ribbon cutting will include company executives from China as well as Governor Mike Pence, Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann and Indiana Secretary of Commerce, Victor Smith. In September of 2014, Haier announced plans for its first U.S. Product Tech Center in Evansville. The new 30,000 square-foot research and development tech center located in the former Coca-Cola building immediately creates over 60 high-wage tech jobs with promise of growth as Haier seeks to expand its foot print in the United States.

The company chose the historic facility as the site for its new tech center for its affordability, proximity to Evansville's urban core and impressive workforce; and, its flexibility to build-out office space along with a fully functioning lab and model shop. The Tech Center will focus on commercialization of Haier products for the U.S. market and eventually transition to work on new product development.

Workforce is always the number one conversation with companies looking to relocate; and, the mix was right for Haier to utilize the technical talent based in Southwest Indiana.

Community Development News

BUSINESS FOCUS

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Since 1964, Industrial Contractors Skanska has provided turnkey design, construction and maintenance services for a wide range of clients in the power and energy; commercial and light industrial and heavy industrial markets.

Visit www.usa.skanska.com for more information.

Economic Indicators Bachelor's Degrees

WITHIN INDIANA

Indy-Carmel- 19.9%
Evansville, IN-KY- 14.7%
Ft. Wayne - 16.3%
S. Bend-Mishawaka- 15.2%

PEER COMMUNITIES

Chattanooga, TN - 15%
Davenport-Moline IA -
16.9%
Peoria, IL - 17.6%
Spartanburg, SC- 13.2%

Source: Stats Indiana/US
Census Bureau, American
Community Survey, 5 Year
Estimates



Francisco Boasts New Water Tower

Nearly 800 residents in the town of Francisco are no longer facing low water pressure, boil alerts or water outages now that the community's new 60,000 gallon water tank has been installed.

With the assistance of the Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana's Community Development division, the community was able to secure a \$500,000 Community Focus Fund (CFF) grant from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA).

The CFF funds, coupled with the local match funds, were utilized to install a tank that features emergency alarms and an emergency shut off system. These items are essential to preservation of the town's water supply in the event of water main breaks (in two separate instances in 2012 line breaks resulted in the exhaustion of the tank's water supply). The funds were also used to remove the old water tank, eliminating maintenance costs and a safety hazard.



TEDx Evansville is coming to town October 13, 2015. TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience which since 1984 has been a non-profit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less on

a variety of topics such as technology, entertainment as well as science business and global issues – in more than 100 languages.

Meanwhile, independently run TEDx events help share ideas in communities around the world. TEDxEvansville is an excellent way to promote the region, but the group needs your involvement. Check out www.tedxevansville.com to see how you and your company may sponsor.



Regional Cities Update

As work continues on the Regional Cities Initiative,



projects that meet the requirements of talent attraction and transformative return on investment are rising to the top.

With an extended deadline of August 31 and additional requirements to submit, the team is working diligently to dream big and plan strategically making the proposal and presentation a sure candidate to be selected for the proposed \$42 million.

[You can view the initiative and submit comments/ideas here.](#)

You may also find the FAQ an interesting starting point before submitting ideas. [You can view the FAQ here.](#)

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