

Switzerland County Dedicates Technology and Education Center

For Immediate Release

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Switzerland County officials dedicated a new building Wednesday, that will provide residents with the county's first education and training facilities designed for adult learning. Over 200 people attended the dedication ceremony at the site at 708 W. Seminary Street in Vevay.

The building is the new home of the Switzerland County/Purdue Cooperative Extension Service and the Switzerland County Emergency Management Agency. A new community room for the Switzerland County will be available for private and commercial functions. Additionally, a WorkOne Express satellite office will be operated by the Indiana Region 9 Workforce Board.

Adult educational facilities were funded in part from a partnership between the Community Foundation of Switzerland County, the Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation, and the regional EcO15 initiative in southeastern Indiana. EcO15 began with a Lilly Endowment award to ten southeast Indiana communities in 2008 to increase educational attainment, skill levels, and income from wages for residents. Switzerland County's last-place ranking among all Indiana counties in the percentage of residents with a Bachelor's Degree or higher was a target of the county's EcO15 initiative. The lack of adult/community educational facilities was identified as a primary factor for this ranking.

The Technology and Education Center consists of a 300-person multi-purpose training and community room, three classrooms, a computer lab, a conference room with videoconferencing capabilities, and an advanced manufacturing lab. The Technology and Education Center also offices a distance education facility, where residents enrolled in online learning opportunities can work on their courses with furnished computers in a private setting.

A "flex-office" will be used by multiple organizations to bring services closer to Switzerland County residents. The Region 9 Workforce Board will operate from the Technology and Education Center one day each week, bringing the WorkOne services to the county's residents for the first time locally. Ivy Tech Community College will also staff the flex-office one day a week. Vincennes University and WGU-Indiana will also have use of the office when serving Switzerland County residents.

Purdue Extension and County Emergency Management services are already operating in the new facility. Adult education classes have already begun with more opportunities beginning in 2013. A community open house will be held at the Technology and Education Center on Saturday, October 27. The entire community is encouraged to stop by and see the facility.

American StructurePoint of Indianapolis was the project's consulting architect. Keystone Corporation of Indianapolis arranged financing for the project and served as the general contractor.



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