



Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation Best in North America

The Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation has won the Gold Award from the International Economic Development Council for its workforce training initiative. With over 4,500 members belonging to the IEDC, being named the best in North America is an honor for Switzerland County. But what does this award and workforce initiative mean for the people of Switzerland County?

“The Excellence in Economic Development Awards recognize Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation as being one of the leading organizations in the industry for innovation, creativity and successful strategies,” said Paul Krutko, IEDC chair. “These awards are meant to honor the organizations and individuals who are dedicated to making a positive change in their communities.”

“In Switzerland County, we realized we could not effectively negotiate with prospects demanding a pipeline of skilled workers until we had constructed that pipeline for them,” said Jon Bond, president of Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation.

Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation’s Eco15 initiative assists residents seeking the necessary

skills to enter, re-enter or re-position themselves in the workforce. Its approach focuses on people, not programs, and measures success one person at a time.

The Technology and Education Center is the cornerstone of the Eco15 program. Completed in 2012, the multi-use facility features classrooms and labs for adult educational opportunities. The Eco15 effort also created an advanced manufacturing lab at Switzerland County High School, and initiated a focus on STEM education. And the community’s residents now receive frequent, regular messages on the importance of upgrading their workplace skills to remain competitive in today’s economy.

The IEDC’s Krutko commended the organization’s creative solutions and inventive ideas, saying, “The award represents an acknowledgment and appreciation for Switzerland Economic Development Corporation’s dedication to continuous growth within itself, as well as improving the industry overall.”

For more information about the Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation and its Eco15 initiative, please visit www.switzerlandusa.com.



Markland Business Park



The Park Leverages Additional Grant Dollars to Complete Construction

The Markland Business Park is now in its final phase of construction under the grant program funded by the US Economic Development Administration. Careful project management has allowed SCEDC to extend the federal grant dollars further and add several new items to the project in late 2013. Included in this new round of construction are:

- Better separation between business traffic and residential areas
- Entryway sign with LED Message Board
- Directory Sign showing businesses in the park
- A new paved drive & cul-de-sac facing the Markland Bridge
- Completion of water line extensions throughout the park
- Additional grading and storm drainage

Final Construction should be complete by mid-2014.

Markland Business Park Featured in Business Facilities Magazine

The Markland Business Park was featured in the September/October edition of Business Facilities magazine. The article can be viewed on SCEDC’s website, switzerlandusa.com. Business Facilities has been a leading source of intelligence on corporate expansion and relocation since 1968, covering the full range of the experience, from “how-to” information

Lt. Governor Ellspermann discusses Switzerland County’s Success

Indiana Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann visited Switzerland County on Friday November 8th as part of her Listen and Learn tour.

The Lt. Governor made two stops in Switzerland County. The first was a meeting with elected officials and community leaders at the Switzerland County Technology and Education Center. At this meeting, Lt. Governor Ellsperman praised the TEC Center’s recent IEDC Gold award and discussed the importance of workforce development programs in today’s economy. Lt. Governor Ellsperman’s second visits was at the Markland Business Park, where she facilitated a Business and Agricultural Conversation hosted at the facility of Trenwa, Inc.



on comparing the financial incentives offered by different communities around the world, to profiles of the latest relocations undertaken by major corporations. The magazine focuses on innovative, strategic ideas that help business executives make the best location choices. The Markland Business Park has been praised in other national site magazines in recent years as well, including Site Selection and Area Development.



Switzerland County Technology & Education Center

Nonprofit Training at TEC Center

Understanding the critical role that Boards of Directors play in governing nonprofit organizations was the focus of a training session on November 5th at the TEC Center. The training was coordinated by the Community Foundation of Switzerland County. Over 40 residents who serve on non-profit boards of directors attended, and learned the legal and ethical responsibilities that accompany their service.



WGU Visits Switzerland County

The Switzerland County Technology and Education Center's Lunch and Learn program recently featured WGU-Indiana, Indiana's on-line university. WGU's commitment to serving Switzerland County started back in 2011, when the Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation President Jon Bond and Vice-President Mike Busch met with WGU-Indiana Chancellor Alison Barber in her office in Indianapolis to discuss ways WGU could assist our residents. WGU-Indiana offers Bachelors, Masters, and Post-Baccalaureate training in teaching professions, health care fields, business, and technology. WGU-Indiana Community Relations Manager Doug Hooper talked about how an on-line



education differs from a traditional college degree, and the benefits to Switzerland County residents who have some college, but have not yet earned their degrees.

The Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation Represented at Indiana Chamber of Commerce Roundtable

The Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation was invited to participate in a roundtable hosted by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce to talk about regional economic development efforts. Jon Bond was one of two local economic development representatives invited to sit on the four-member panel. The group discussed changes in economic development and how local economic groups are working together more at the regional level. The discussion included advantages to marketing as a region, challenges to regional cooperation and what the state can do to support regional development.

A full article on the newsletter is available in the Indiana Chamber of Commerce's November/December BizVoice Magazine on SCEDC's website at switzerlandusa.com.





2013 Bicentennial Celebration for Switzerland County and Vevay

2013 was the year that Vevay and Switzerland County celebrated its bicentennial. While events ran throughout the year, the official celebration week was October 4th-13th. The week was full of commemorative events, including:

- YMCA Larry Tolbert 5K Run/Walk
- Vintage Base Ball Game between the Vevay White Stockings & Rising Sun River Belles
- Edelweiss Singers & Character Drama of County's Past at the Hoosier Theater
- Vevay Main Street hosted their monthly First Friday event themed "Patchwork of History"
- An encore presentation of "The Stripping Room," a play about stripping tobacco, written by local playwright Libby Kinman.
- An old-fashioned tent "Chautauqua" at the Switzerland County Historical Museum.
- William Jennings Bryan, one of Vevay's most popular Chautauqua speakers of 1917, made a return visit as well as period performances of music, dance and comedic relief.
- Honoring Switzerland County's rural heritage, the "Rural Heritage Tour" took place at Musee de Venoge; the Thiebaud Farmstead; and Garland Farm
- Other activities during the Vevay-Switzerland County Bicentennial included a "Cast Iron Chef" contest, antique tractor show, cake decorating contest, tobacco stripping contest, Bicentennial art tour, and more.

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