



2016 Switzerland County Job Fair Set for October 4th

The Switzerland County Technology and Education Center will host a 2016 Job Fair on October 4, 2016 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Coordinated by WorkOne Southeast, the job fair seeks to match residents looking for employment opportunities with employers who have positions to fill. Last year's Job Fair attracted 39 employers with jobs ranging from entry-level to highly-skilled.

Residents seeking work are reminded to dress professionally, bring a current resume and be prepared to fill out applications for all levels of employment. For residents needing help with a resume or interviewing advice, contact the TEC Center at 812.427.4475 for assistance.



Cool Coding Week Coming to Switzerland County

Computer coding is one of the fastest-growing skill requirements for jobs in the United States today. As coding technology continues to evolve, it's becoming easier for more people to write their own business apps and create customized programs for their own business needs. Computer coding jobs paid an average of nearly \$80,000 in 2015, with the highest-paying coders earning over \$128,000 annually.

To keep Switzerland County current with this trend, the SCEDC has partnered with the Eleven Fifty Academy, a computer coding school based in Carmel, Indiana, to offer Cool Coding Week in Switzerland County.

During the week of October 3-7, 2016, Switzerland County school students will be introduced to various levels of computer coding instruction and careers.

On Saturday and Sunday, October 8-9, the Eleven Fifty Academy's "Intro to Coding" course will be offered at the TEC Center. Thanks to the generous support of the Vevay-Switzerland County Foundation, the "Intro to Coding" course will be offered at a fraction of the cost to Switzerland County residents.

Residents interested in attending the Intro to Coding course may call 812.427.4475 for more information.



ELEVEN FIFTY
ACADEMY





Duke Energy Plans \$100 Million Investment at Markland Facility



Duke Energy has announced plans to upgrade the hydroelectric power plant at the Markland Dam in Switzerland County. The project is expected to cost \$100 million.

The company has requested permission from the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission to modernize, replace and upgrade the three hydroelectric turbines, generators

and related equipment which have been in service for nearly 50 years. The completed project could increase the plant's output by as much as 10 megawatt.

"The generating units at Markland Hydro have served our customers well with clean, renewable energy since 1967," said Melody Birmingham-Byrd, president of Duke Energy Indiana. "As we move toward increasingly cleaner energy, these modernized generation units will harness more of the renewable resources of the Ohio River for many years to come."

Work on the project could begin around mid-2016 and conclude by mid-2020.



Help Available to Switzerland County Residents without a High School Diploma



In 2014, Indiana replaced the GED test with a new test leading to the High School Equivalency (HSE) certification. The HSE certificate not only gives residents without a high school diploma an equivalent credential, but helps residents get a better job. Employers today overwhelmingly require a high school diploma or equivalent for even the most basic jobs.

Citizens can expect to earn more money during their lifetime with an HSE certificate. Data tells us that people with an HSE certificate earn almost \$400,000 more throughout their lifetime than people without an HSE certificate or high school diploma.

HSE test preparation classes are held at the Switzerland County Technology and Education Center and are free of charge to Indiana residents. The classes meet twice a week. Citizens seeking to earn their HSE start at customized level based on the results of a pre-test, so each person only studies what they do not already know in order to pass the test. Many citizens are ready to pass the HSE test in two to twelve months after starting the class.

For more information on the HSE program, call the Adult Education Hotline at 1.855.591.7849.



Ivy Tech Courses Begin at TEC Center for Switzerland County High School Students

For the second consecutive year, the Switzerland County Technology and Education Center will partner with Ivy Tech and the Switzerland County School Corporation to host Ivy Tech dual enrollment courses for Switzerland County high school students. “Fundamentals of Public Speaking” and “Music Appreciation” courses allow students to complete up to 6 credit hours towards an associates degree at Ivy Tech.

Switzerland County parents of high school students who wish to learn more about the dual enrollment program, which includes free textbooks, should contact the high school guidance office at 812.427.2626.



TEC Center Offers Assistance to ITT Tech Students Affected by the School's Closure

ITT Tech announced on September 6, 2016 they are ceasing all operations. The fall quarter, scheduled to begin September 12, has been canceled.

Current ITT Tech students may have options for transferring their ITT Tech credits to other institutions, although the number of institutions that have credit transfer agreements with ITT Tech is very limited. Currently in Indiana, only Indiana Wesleyan has an agreement with ITT Tech, although other colleges such as Ivy Tech Community College and Indiana Tech, are working to consider the acceptance of ITT Tech credits.

Students may also have options for having their student loans forgiven. The rules for “closed-school discharge” are complex and students considering this option are

advised to seek help to determine if this is the best choice.

The Switzerland County TEC Center is willing to assist Switzerland County residents who are enrolled in ITT Tech programs to explore these options, with the goal of minimizing the disruption to their educational goals.

SCTEC can be contacted at 812.427.4475, or residents may leave a Facebook message: <https://www.facebook.com/Switzerland-County-Technology-and-Education-Center-255996553322/>





SCEDC Announces New Online Tools for Small Businesses

New resources are now available for small businesses and entrepreneurs in Switzerland County. These tools are designed to make it easier for small businesses to easily get the information they need to make their business successful. The tools are on Switzerland County's Tools for Business Success site and can be found through SCEDC's website at www.switzerlandusa.com.

New resources added this spring include the 10 Minute Tune-Up, a regularly updated series of short guides that allow a business to see how they compare with their peers and how to improve. New information on changing state and federal laws are also included. Topics covered on the site range from business organization to marketing to customer service. Recent new information added cover the use of social media for business and crowdfunding guidelines. The Tools for Business Success site is constantly being update with new information and users are encouraged to check back often.



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