

Achievements 2014-2015

- ❖ Received a State Career and Technical Education innovative-curriculum grant of \$82,354, leveraged by more than \$28,000 in local cash and in-kind support, to establish an industrial–repair-and-maintenance–technology (RAM-Tech) program at West Central High School. This program, which will be open to any Pulaski County high-school student, will help to create a pipeline of trained maintenance workers familiar with fabrication, fluid power, programmable controls, and other key skills.
- ❖ Applied and selected for the Hometown Collaboration Initiative, an inaugural program from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) dedicated to rural communities aiming to expand their pipeline of local leaders, to strengthen and to expand jobs by building on existing economic assets, and to embrace place-making strategies that focus on improving the attractiveness and quality of life of their hometowns.
- ❖ Sponsored a local entrepreneurship seminar, facilitated by the Northwest Indiana Small Business Development Center and OCRA, as a kick-off to the Community Entrepreneurship Initiative. The seminar was followed by a business–start-up seminar attend by about 25 persons. In 2015, the Initiative will continue with business-planning and –marketing workshops.
- ❖ Director served as president of the Pulaski County Advisory Commission on Industrial Affairs; on the Commission’s behalf, the director had appraisals of available land conducted in preparation for potential negotiations with industrial prospects that have expressed interest in operating here.
- ❖ Completed feasibility studies of three tracts for the PC-CARE, a proposed rail-served industrial park.
- ❖ Maintained one of the lowest unemployment rates in Indiana while seeing an increase in labor-force participation.
- ❖ Facilitated local-manufacturer relationships with Center of Workforce Innovations and Ivy Tech Corporate College and partnered with Ivy Tech to provide soft-skills training for local employers.
- ❖ Director appointed to the Loan Approval Committee of the Regional Development Company (RDC), an SBA-504 small-business lender. This role not only exposes staff to business-growth financials, but also strengthens the connection between the RDC and potential local borrowers.
- ❖ Coordinated a student–business-plan competition in classes taught by Brandon Burgess at Winamac Community High School. Long-term plans are to expand the program beyond Mr. Burgess’s classroom and to West Central High School.

- ❖ Director visited multiple high-school classes, and participated at one elementary-school and one middle school function, for Junior Achievement.
- ❖ Spearheaded efforts to establish a young professionals organization in Pulaski County.
- ❖ Oversaw efforts to develop a new, state-of-the-art County Website.
- ❖ Continued public-relations efforts through a quarterly newsletter and an increased social-media presence.
- ❖ Participated in five-county Rural and Rustic Tourism Group, contributing to a new brochure for the region.
- ❖ Director served as secretary of the Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce.
- ❖ Director served as advisor to the Advisory Plan Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals, coordinating ongoing efforts to have the Pulaski County Uniform Development Ordinance modernized.
- ❖ Director served on the Pulaski County ADA Compliance Committee.
- ❖ Director served on Winamac Safe Routes to School Taskforce.
- ❖ To promote regional cooperation and growth, director participated in the Indiana Technology's Corridor economic-development group and the Northwest Indiana Forum's Economic Development Committee, and served as a secretary of the Kankakee-Iroquois Regional Planning Commission.
- ❖ Director coordinated meetings of regional trail groups to plan future trail development and regional connectivity.