

Achievements 2012

Direct Involvement: Activities in which the CDC board and director were involved as originator and executor. Results and outcomes solely the result of CDC action with or without subcontractors.

*Established 2012 as the Year of the Entrepreneur and implemented programming therefor. These included guest-speaker presentations by representatives of the Northwest Indiana Small Business Development Center, the Purdue Center for Regional Development, and the Small Business Administration. As part of the programming, and in further carrying out of the 2010 strategic plan, *Pulaski County: Mapping a Path Forward*, the annual economic summit was held in June, featuring a state-of-the-county-economy talk from the CDC director and an entrepreneurship discussion panel comprising local small-business representatives, including members of the CDC.

Two key outcomes of these events were the solicitation of services from the Small Business Development Center by Pulaski-County businesses and focused momentum toward developing a youth-retention/entrepreneurial-development program with local high schools.

*Established a broader online presence, unveiling the CDC/Economic Development *Facebook* page. Also initiated a quarterly electronic newsletter, the Pulaski County Economic Development *Dispatch*.

Collaborative Involvement: Efforts undertaken by the CDC with partner agencies, organizations, and individuals.

* Assisted a Winamac manufacturer in obtaining a ten-year, 100-percent property-tax abatement on new manufacturing and IT equipment; the four-year expansion project is expected to create 20 new jobs and to retain 65 existing employees.

*Provided financial and programming support to PACE/Purdue Extension welder-training course. In 2012, approximately 30 students completed the beginner-level course; to date, more than 300 students have participated in the entry-level or advanced class, or both. The classes serve as a “feeder” for more advanced programs (e.g. the certification program at Ivy Tech – Logansport) and for local manufacturers, who often hire students as laborers and may provide more advanced on-the-job welder training.

*Successfully guided a Winamac company through the revolving-loan process, securing a \$132,000 loan for the purchase a larger facility (on more land) and new equipment. Loan recommendations are made by a five-person committee comprising the CDC director, two local bankers, a County commissioner, and a County councilor; final decisions are the prerogative of the Board of County Commissioners.

*Participated in five-county Rural and Rustic Tourism Group, contributing to a new tourism brochure for the region. The Society of Innovators of Northwest Indiana recognized this group in 2012 for coming together to promote rural tourism.

*Director served on Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce board of directors, coordinated the Chamber's 2012 holiday-season shop-locally advertising/discount campaign, and assisted in the coordination of the Pulaskiopoly board-game fundraiser.

*Director served as vice-president of the Winamac Industrial Park Advisory Board.

*Assisted Greenspace Winamac/Arrow Head Country Resource Conservation and Development in successfully applying for Pulaski County Community Foundation and REMC Operation Round-up grants to fund development of Winamac pocket park.

*Provided continued support to Pulaski County Advisory Plan Commission (APC) to fund the printing of land-use maps; director served as advisor to the APC and Board of Zoning Appeals.

*Director served on Winamac Safe Routes to School Taskforce. An outgrowth of the Friends of the Panhandle Pathway/Panhandle Pathway project, this team is working with professional planners to develop and to implement plans that will make safe and encourage walking and bicycling to school and encourage healthy recreational habits for all. CDC director partnered with hired consultants to prepare successful grant application for \$249,996 for infrastructure improvements.

*To promote regional cooperation and growth, director participated in the Indiana Technology's Corridor economic-development group and served as Secretary of the Kankakee-Iroquois Regional Planning Commission (KIRPC); he also coordinated the 2012 update of the KIRPC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and assisted in coordinating a regional-coalition brownfields-assessment grant application.

*To promote regional cooperation with a focus on economic development in low-income areas, the director served as a founding member of advisory board of Northwest Indiana Community Development, LLC, which is seeking qualification for New Market Tax Credit projects in the seven counties of Northwest Indiana.

*Director began serving on the campus advisory board for Ivy Tech – Logansport.

*Director served on the steering committee for the Pulaski Memorial Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment.

*Facilitated local-manufacturer relationships with the Center of Workforce Innovations and Ivy Tech Corporate College.

*Director coordinated a meeting of regional trail groups to plan future trail development and regional connectivity.

Support. Activities involving often intangible effort to help another achieve an end.

*Supported County-tourism effort through advertising support: Power from the Past; Medaryville Decorating Committee; Monterey Days; Star City Day; various Chamber activities.

*Provided financial support for the continued development of the Panhandle Pathway multi-modal rail-bed trail.