



NEWS from MCEDC

Marshall County Economic Development Corporation

November 2011

Marshall County Community Conversation on Regional Workforce Readiness to be held November 16th: "Education, Industry and Workforce Development: The Ties that Bind"



Marshall County Community Foundation and Marshall County Economic Development are partnering again to convene another Community Conversation, with direct financial and programming assistance from the Bowen Center for Public Affairs at Ball State and the Indiana Humanities Foundation. The event will be held on November 16th at Swan Lake Resort. This year's conversation is titled "21st Century Workforce Readiness - Education, Industry and Workforce Development: The Ties that Bind". National and local experts in education and economic development will share their insights on emerging trends and opportunities in workforce development. The keynote speaker will be Carol D'Amico, former President and CEO of [Conexus Indiana](#). Everyone is encouraged to participate.

[Here is the announcement and registration form.](#)

Register now so you can join in the conversation!!!

Small Business Innovation Research Grant Funding Assistance offered through the Indiana Small Business Development Center

Let the North Central ISBDC Help With The First Step

Is your business trying to obtain funding to develop and commercialize innovative technology? The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program provides competitive grants to businesses conducting research which will ultimately lead to commercialized products and services.

In order to pursue funding, applicants are required to submit detailed proposals to participating federal agencies. These agencies make awards to businesses based on the proposal's degree of innovation, technical merit, and future market potential. Businesses that receive awards then begin a three-phase program.

* Phase I - Feasibility Study (\$100K-\$150K, 6-12 Months)

* Phase II - Develop Prototype/Proof-of-Concept (\$500K-\$1M, 2 Years)

*** Phase III - Commercialization (Usually No Grants, Sole-Source Procurement)**

Contact the North Central ISBDC office at (574) 282-4350 ext 0 for more information.

MCEDC Announces the Addition of Derek Spier, Economic Development Specialist

Marshall County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) announces the addition of Derek Spier, AICP, as an Economic Development Specialist. In this position, he will assist in countywide economic development efforts including research, marketing, and grant writing for business expansion, retention and attraction.



Derek Spier, Economic Development Specialist

"We welcome Derek and look forward to introducing him as an additional resource to our Marshall County communities," said Jennifer Laurent, MCEDC Executive Director. "His experience with site development processes will be an asset in making potential projects a reality, whether through advising in technical infrastructure planning or working directly with businesses on plans to grow here in Marshall County."

Over the last 13 years, Spier has been employed in both the public and private sectors in the local area. Most recently he was a planner with the St. Joseph County Area Plan Commission, where he was responsible for reviewing subdivisions, site plans, and variance petitions, and preparing and presenting staff reports to various commissions and boards. From 2000 to 2009, he was employed with Abonmarche Consultants, LLC and was responsible for administering the approval process for residential and commercial development projects. Other responsibilities included subdivision and site design, environmental permitting such as soil erosion and pollution prevention plans, wetland permitting, and NEPA permitting, and land use studies and comprehensive plans. From 1998 to 2000, he was with the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG), where he assisted in community education, website design and maintenance, census planning activities, grant writing and research, and transportation and environmental planning.

Spier holds an AICP designation, which is a certified urban planner. He has received Bachelor's Degrees in Urban Planning and Development and in Environmental Design with Minors in Business and Sociology from Ball State University. He is married to Amy Spier, an elementary school teacher with the Elkhart Community School Corporation.

Spotlight on Resources: Pfeil Innovation Center

The Pfeil Innovation Center is a new resource for our Michiana region established to help organizations develop innovation as a core competency. This center was created under the leadership of Memorial Hospital and opened in early 2011 on the East Bank in South Bend. A gift from benefactor Dick Pfeil makes the costs of the team-based training sessions affordable for businesses, education, government and not for profits alike.

The mission of the center is to serve as a platform to change the trajectory of the regional economy leading to job creation and an improved the overall quality of life. The Pfeil Center hopes to position our North Central Indiana region to become known for having business leaders and a workforce immersed in innovation practice and leadership across all employment sectors.

In order to meet this mission, the center offers a unique, two-day immersion experience, an innovation training course based in real problem solving for your company or group while focusing on basic principals and best practices of innovation and how to implement them. The content and basis for course was drawn from a team of nationally recognized innovation experts and Memorial's over 40 "Inno-Visits" -- or site visits to innovative organizations to discover creative solutions from other industries.

For more information on the [Pfeil Innovation Center](#) please see the website, and contact MCEDC if you wish to be part of a Marshall County day of teams. If there is sufficient interest, MCEDC would like to coordinate a session featuring many of our local businesses and organizations. Registration can also be made directly by calling the Pfeil Center at (574) 647-6803.

Indiana Rural Summit Registration is Open

MCEDC plans to gather with Hoosier leaders and citizens at the 2011 Indiana Rural Summit to develop creative ways of strengthening and advancing our rural communities. Let us know if you will be there too! [Registration information can be found here:](#)

Indiana Rural Summit
Partnering for Economic Health & Community Success
December 1 & 2, 2011
Indiana State University
University Hall
Terre Haute, IN
Bayh College of Education

Keynote Speaker Dr. Rick Foster was the Vice President for Programs at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation until accepting an invitation by Michigan State University, in April 2010, to

direct MSU Extension's educational efforts in community and economic development, natural resources and stewardship, food systems and resource allocation as it applies to finances, housing and energy.

Monsanto Fund Grant Funding Announcement

Grants Enhance U.S. Farm Communities

The Monsanto Fund seeks to encourage the growth of farming communities across the United States. Grants of up to \$20,000 are provided to nonprofit organizations that address the following areas: K-12 Education grants enhance programs designed to improve education in farming communities, including supporting schools, libraries, science centers, farmer training programs, and academic programs that supplement school programs. Human Services grants support nonprofit organizations in farming communities that help with critical needs such as food security, sanitation, access to clean water, and public safety.

Proposals will be accepted from nonprofit organizations from January 1 through February 28, 2012. (The Fund will be hosting conference calls on January 17 and February 9 to address questions prospective grantees might have.) [Visit the Fund's website to preview the grant application and read the FAQs.](#)

Contact Information

phone: (574) 935-8499

Join our mailing list!

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to derek@marshallcountyedc.org by jennifer@marshallcountyedc.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).
Marshall County Economic Development Corporation | 2864 Miller Dr. | Plymouth | IN | 46614