

E-REP

JULY 2024

BUSINESS |

POLICY |

COMMUNITY |

TALENT |

STRATEGY |

IMPACT

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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THE LAST LAP

CELEBRATING
 GOV. ERIC J. HOLCOMB'S
 LAST YEAR IN OFFICE

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www.evansvilleregion.com



E-REP Incentive Programs Foster Economic Growth

Across the nation, cities are leveraging a variety of incentives to foster economic growth and cultivate vibrant communities. The Evansville Region is embracing this approach with tailored programs designed to attract top talent and remote workers. E-REP's proactive incentive programs are significantly impacting population growth and talent attraction, echoing successes seen across the United States.

As CEO, I am privileged to witness our team strategically manage our talent attraction initiatives that are bringing new residents to our communities from every corner of the United States and transforming our region into a thriving hub.

- Our **Belong Here** initiative provides a \$6,000 cash offer to those who relocate to our region, fill a local job opening, obtain housing, and commit to stay in the region for two years.
- Additionally, through the **MakeMyMove** program, qualified remote workers relocating to Vanderburgh County receive a \$5,000 relocation package to assist with moving expenses, access to Cowork Evansville, local perks, and connections to local professional networks.

Our initiatives are bearing fruit. We are seeing an influx of skilled professionals and their families eager to join

MOVER STATS

2024 MakeMyMove Remote Worker Relocation Program (25 spots):

- 17 movers secured – out of 25 spots (41 individuals total including households)
- 15 additional movers in “accepted” status (the first 10 who secure housing in Vanderburgh County will be selected)
- 297 program applicants in various stages of the pipeline

2024 Belong Here Relocation Program (15 spots):

- 4 movers secured – out of 15 spots (have jobs at local companies and secured housing in region)
- 4 additional movers secured jobs in the region and are actively looking for housing in Evansville
- 70 program applicants in various stages of the pipeline

*data as of July 1, 2024

the communities in our region. This growth and positive trend enhances our workforce diversity, fosters innovation, and positions the Evansville Region as a competitive player on the national stage. See our 2024 success numbers below.

I am confident that our continued commitment to these incentive programs will sustain our momentum and secure a bright future for the Evansville region.

e is for everyone,



LLOYD WINNECKE
CEO, E-REP

#riversofopportunities

f l n i o t @evvregion



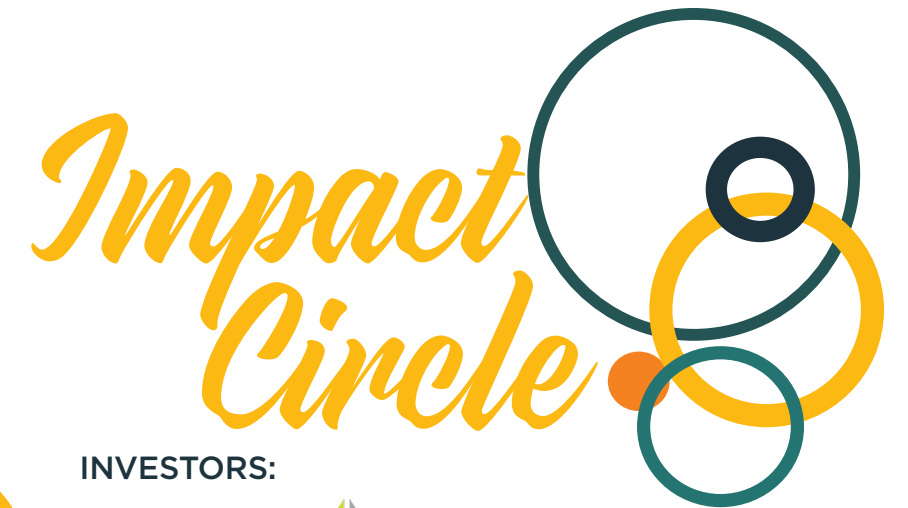
LLOYD WINNECKE
CEO



Impact Circle, Champion, and Torchbearer Investors are the voices of business in the Evansville Region. This select group of Evansville Regional Economic Partnership (E-REP) Stakeholders guides E-REP's mission and priorities, its affiliates, and its lines of work. It drives the Region's greatest opportunities for progress and addresses significant community challenges.

Above all, this leadership investment affords E-REP the capacity to employ and retain a high-quality staff to execute the work of the organization and to ensure that it has sufficient resources to provide leadership for the Region's greatest opportunities.

THANK YOU!



INVESTORS:



CHAMPION INVESTORS:



TORCHBEARER INVESTORS:





2024 LUNCH WITH THE GOVERNOR: Governor Eric J. Holcomb's Last Lap in Office

The recent Lunch with the Governor event was a high-octane success held at the Ford Center on June 20. During this Evansville Regional Economic Partnership (E-REP) Signature Event community leaders, business professionals, and public servants honored Governor Eric J. Holcomb's dedicated service and visionary leadership for the State of Indiana.

Mayor Stephanie Terry, taking the pole position, kicked off the event with a warm welcome. She emphasized the collaborative effort needed to steer the Evansville Region towards a prosperous future. Governor Holcomb's creation of the READI program and READI 2.0, which awarded the Evansville Region a top grant of \$45 million, was highlighted as a key victory lap for the community. This funding is pivotal for projects like River Vision and "The

Vault" at 5th and Main, enhancing the quality of place and attracting new talent to the region, while turbocharging investment and job creation.

A pit stop of gratitude was given to the sponsors whose generous support made the event possible. Diamond Sponsors CenterPoint Energy and Old National Bank; Platinum Sponsor Deaconess Hospital; Gold Sponsors Baird Private Wealth Management and Ports of Indiana; and Silver Sponsors Garmong Construction Services, German American Bank, and Kaiser Aluminum Warrick were all acknowledged.

The race continued with Warrick County's Economic Development Director Steve Roelle, who praised the region's collaborative spirit and highlighted key projects

like the I-69 River Crossing. This significant infrastructure project, along with Next Level initiatives, is set to drive economic growth and connectivity in the region.

The event's highlight was a fast-paced Q&A session with Governor Holcomb, moderated by E-REP CEO Lloyd Winnecke. They discussed the impact of state investments in quality of place, talent attraction, strategic site development, and the importance of air service expansion, including the return of the Chicago flight to Evansville in September. The session concluded with a look ahead at the Governor's plans to "finish strong" in his final lap in office.

In a special moment that thrilled the audience, two-time Indy 500 winner Al Unser Jr. made a surprise appearance to honor Governor Holcomb. He presented the Governor with a white flag, symbolizing the final lap of his term. E-REP gifted Al and the Governor each a customized milk bottle, a nod to the Indy 500 victory tradition. This gesture underscored the Governor's journey and his impending "victory" lap as he wraps up his dedicated service to Indiana.

As the event crossed the finish line, E-REP's Justin Groenert, Chief Strategy Officer, took the stand, thanking Governor Holcomb once more for his service. He encouraged attendees to participate in upcoming E-REP events:

- Family Business Alliance Summer Event - July 11
- Young Professionals Conference - July 23



- Lunch with the Mayors - July 26
- Annual Meeting and Dinner - September 12
- Evansville Region Mfg. Summit - October 24

Register for these events and more at www.members.evansvilleregion.com/events.

Thank you to all our sponsors, attendees, and Governor Holcomb for making this event a memorable and inspiring occasion. We look forward to seeing you at our future E-REP events as we continue to race towards a brighter future!



| BUSINESS TORCHBEARER PARTNER



OmniTRAX will manage Mount Vernon port rail service and partner with Ports of Indiana on development.

Ports of Indiana, OmniTRAX Enter Landmark Rail Development Agreement to Grow State's Largest Port

Long-term agreement will support growth of existing customers, attract new business

Ports of Indiana has selected OmniTRAX to serve as the new rail operator and development partner at Ports of Indiana-Mount Vernon, Indiana's largest port. Founded in 1986, the Denver-based company was selected from a group of 19 nationwide respondents as part of an extensive RFP process to provide rail switching and business development support at the Mount Vernon port.

OmniTRAX is one of the fastest growing private railroad operators in North America, operating 27 railroads serving

ports and industrial parks across the country. It is part of The Broe Group, a private multi-billion-dollar investment group with diversified holdings throughout 41 North American states and provinces.

"This is a landmark agreement for Ports of Indiana-Mount Vernon that will spur significant growth and business expansions throughout the region," said Ports of Indiana CEO Jody Peacock. "OmniTRAX offers a unique combination of world-class rail operations and large-scale

industrial development services that will help port customers grow and attract new businesses. The Mount Vernon facility is already Indiana's largest port in terms of cargo shipments, rail traffic, and developable land, and it also has the greatest potential for future growth."

Ports of Indiana-Mount Vernon is a 1,200-acre port on the Ohio River with potential connections to five Class I railroads and annual shipments of approximately 6.7 million tons and 40,000 rail cars. The port is home to 12 companies, with onsite services for cargo handling, warehousing, barge fleet, and Foreign-Trade Zones, as well as 680 acres of available land, including a 544-acre megasite. It is the closest port to the median center of the U.S. population and the soon-to-be completed Interstate 69 trade corridor from Canada to Mexico.

"We're very excited to partner with Ports of Indiana-Mount Vernon and local companies to provide critical rail services and pursue large-scale economic growth," said OmniTRAX CEO Dean Piacente. "There is tremendous potential for rail-related development in this area because of the port's strategic location and excellent infrastructure. Our OmniTRAX Industrial Development Team is eager to

partner with local, regional, and state economic development officials and leverage our Rail-Ready Sites program to connect businesses with rail-served sites and drive further economic development in Southern Indiana."

Established in 1970, the Mount Vernon port has more than 8,000 feet of river frontage and 10 cargo terminals on the Ohio River handling coal, ethanol, DDGs, grain, soy products, fertilizer, steel, minerals, and general cargoes. The port is currently investing \$5 million in rail improvements and has submitted a federal grant application for a \$16 million project involving the construction of a new railyard and transload facility.

"We have big plans for this port and our new partnership with OmniTRAX is a key step toward expanding the value of our port to the local community and our state," said Jason May, port director for Ports of Indiana-Mount Vernon. "Of the 19 companies vying to provide rail switching operations for the port, OmniTRAX stood out because of the company's high-level commitment to Mount Vernon and ability to bring major rail and economic development resources to support the growth and development of our port."

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Chris Berneking
filmmaker | photographer



Evansville Region Announces READI 2.0 Official Application

READI 2.0 application open to capital and infrastructure projects advancing regional goals

The Evansville Regional Economic Partnership (E-REP) has announced a call for economic development projects happening in the Evansville Region that are interested in READI 2.0 funding. The application is open to any capital or infrastructure project that would advance regional goals of population growth, create new higher-paying jobs and workforce development for jobs of the future, improve health outcomes, or enhance efforts to lessen the number of local households in poverty. The project must also meet funding thresholds of at least 60% private funding, 20% local or federal funding, and up to 20% in READI funds.

The READI 2.0 program builds upon the success of its predecessor, READI 1.0 which has already supported more than 20 transformative projects, including workforce housing in Gibson County and a comprehensive riverfront strategic plan spanning Warrick, Vanderburgh, and Posey counties. In April of this year, the Evansville Region was awarded an additional \$45 million dollars in READI 2.0 funds.

“READI funds will further strengthen and build resilience in Gibson, Posey, Vanderburgh, and Warrick Counties. We are eager to learn about projects that address critical challenges, capitalize on opportunities, and enhance the overall appeal of the Evansville Region, said Josh Armstrong, Chief Economic Development Officer of E-REP. We appreciate the support of Governor Holcomb and the Indiana Legislature in appropriating these funds and look forward to working with the Indiana Economic Development Corporation in putting these dollars to work in our four-county region.”

READI 2.0 TIMELINE & INFORMATION:

- **June 4, 2024:** Official READI 2.0 Application open.
- **June 4, 2024 – December 31, 2026:** E-REP, alongside The Southwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) will review

applications and obligate funds until all \$45 million is obligated to projects

- **December 31, 2028:** All projects funded by READI 2.0 must be completed in their entirety.

E-REP and the RDA will lead the application process alongside strategic partners to further enable the region’s TALENT EVV community vision. E-REP will share READI 2.0 updates and opportunities to the region and encourages all interested parties to visit the [E-REP website](https://www.evansvilleregion.com/readi/) to sign up for READI email updates.

<https://www.evansvilleregion.com/readi/>

READI 2.0 ROADSHOW

- July 9, 2024: City of Evansville**
Innovation Pointe Media Suite: 318 Main St., Evansville
8 AM - 9 AM
- July 9, 2024: Vanderburgh County**
USI Business & Engineering: 8600 University Blvd., Evansville
3 PM - 4 PM
- July 11, 2024: Warrick County**
Ohio Township Trustee Office: 3433 Libbert Rd., Newburgh
8 AM - 9 AM
- July 11, 2024: Gibson County**
The HUB 127: 127 Hart St., Princeton
3 PM - 4 PM
- July 12, 2024: Posey County**
Country Mark Innovation Center: 401 Plaza Dr., Mt. Vernon
8 AM - 9 AM

EVANSVILLE REGION
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GET ALL THE DETAILS!



Let's welcome Lincoln Industries, Inc. as a new member of E-REP. Jerry Grangier, General Manager, gives us insight about Lincoln Industries, Inc. – located at 110 W. Division St., in Boonville. Jerry can be reached by calling 812-897-0715 or email jerryg@zoeller.com.

Tell us about Lincoln Industries, Inc. and the services you offer.

Lincoln Industries has been operating in Boonville since 1986. We're a division of the Zoeller Company, headquartered in Louisville, KY, and proudly employ 70 employees in the Evansville region. We are a family-owned plastic injection molding manufacturer, providing plastic components, as well as assembled products, for both the wastewater and potable water industries. We are beginning to venture into new markets as our business continues to grow.

What inspired you to invest your time and resources in this business?

I always had a desire to work in manufacturing, and this is the only field I have worked in. I am proud to work for a company that keeps its core values at the forefront of what we do. Our mission is to improve people's lives; both of our employees and our customers. The results of our work make it easy to show up every day.

What career advice would you give the younger generation interested in this type of work?

Find a company that embraces both technology and the speed of change. Our industry is always changing, and it can be easy to get left behind. Don't be complacent with the status-quo, be the person who is constantly questioning how things are getting done, and keep pushing the ball forward.

In your opinion, what are three ingredients for success?

- 1.) Have strong core values, and a culture that adheres to them, to help guide the business
- 2.) Empower your team members and give them a platform to voice their ideas
- 3.) Don't be afraid of failure or taking risks

What has been one of your toughest challenges?

I stepped into this role having never worked in a plastics facility before. Learning and adjusting to the type of manufacturing done here, as well as learning a completely new industry, was a big hurdle. I am grateful for the learning experience.

Why is the Evansville Region a great place to operate a business?

Evansville is a major hub for the plastics industry, and our location in this region allows us to enjoy several operational advantages.

What do you like most about the community in which you live?

We are proud residents of Boonville. It is a great community to be a part of, and the recent growth and investment in our town continue to add to the appeal. We love living in our small town, while still being close enough to enjoy all that Evansville offers.

Is there anything else you would like to share?

This year our parent company, Zoeller Company, celebrates its 85th year in business, as well as a leadership change to the fourth generation of the Zoeller family. Lincoln Industries has proudly been part of the Zoeller Family of Water Solutions for 38 years and are excited to celebrate our own 40-year milestone in 2026. Exciting times within our company!



Landmark Economic Impact Study Reveals Unprecedented Growth in Evansville's Health and Life Sciences Sector

E-REP proudly shares the findings of the first-ever Economic Impact study of the Stone Family Center for Health and Life Sciences, a multi-institutional collaborative Center that has become the focal point of progress in Evansville Region's health and life sciences sector.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE STUDY:

Fastest Growing Health and Life Sciences Sector: The study reveals that the Evansville Region boasts the fastest growing health and life sciences sector among peer markets (Chattanooga, TN; Greenville, SC; Kansas City, MO; Charlotte, NC). This rapid growth is a testament to the impact of initiatives like the Stone Family Center for Health and Life Sciences in propelling the region into a hub of innovation and excellence.

\$1 Billion Contribution to the Regional Economy: Between 2013 and 2022, the combined forces of healthcare, education, and technology within the health and life sciences sector have contributed nearly \$1 billion to the regional economy. This economic impact underscores the significance of the sector in driving prosperity and development in the Evansville Region.

Educating Tomorrow's Leaders: The Stone Family Center for Health and Life Sciences plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of the health and life sciences sector.

Currently, the center is educating approximately 500 graduate-level students who are poised to become leaders and innovators in healthcare, research, and technology sectors.

Evansville's Ascent to Statewide and National Leadership: The study foresees a bright future for the Evansville Region, positioning it as a statewide and national leader in child and adolescent psychiatry. The Stone Family Center's commitment to excellence and collaboration is propelling the regional healthcare sector to new heights, ensuring its prominence on the state-wide and national stage.

E-REP believes that the Stone Family Center for Health and Life Sciences is a catalyst for positive change, not only in the Evansville Region but also in the broader landscape of healthcare and life sciences across the state and country. The center's commitment to education, research, and innovation is setting the stage for a dynamic future where the Evansville Region plays a leading role in shaping the health and well-being of communities.

For additional information about the Economic Impact Study or the Stone Family Center for Health and Life Sciences, please contact Tyler Stock, Executive Director of Talent EVV at E-REP by calling 812-550-4313 or emailing tstock@evvregion.com.



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Top ways to use email automation to drive customer loyalty

By Better Business Bureau®

Several marketing channels, including social media and video marketing, have quickly risen in popularity in recent years. However, email marketing is still one of the most cost-effective ways to reach and connect with customers. Not only does email marketing provide a potential ROI of between \$36 and \$41 for every \$1 invested, but email automation also allows you to stay top-of-mind with your customers and drive customer loyalty.

If you're still not entirely convinced of the power of email marketing, then consider some of the following statistics before jumping into how email automation can benefit your business.

Email automation stats worth reviewing

Email is an essential part of any successful business. This is true whether you're just starting your business or building a brand that is already widely recognized. Creating and sending email campaigns may seem simple enough when starting out. However, as your business grows, you realize that you need to automate your email campaigns to keep up with your customers.

Here are some of the statistics that prove the power of email marketing and automation:

- Automated emails can generate roughly 320% more revenue than non-automated campaigns — [Campaign Monitor](#).
- 87% of marketers use email marketers to distribute their content to their audience — [Startup Nation](#).
- Marketing automation emails can generate 18 times more revenue compared to regular emails — [Market.us](#).
- Automation allows for easier personalization, and these can generate 50% higher open rates — [The CMO Club](#).

Of course, these are only a few promising statistics proving email marketing and automation to be powerful tools. If

you're looking to grow your business in this digital age, email marketing and automation are a must.

If you're ready to start automating your email campaigns, here are a few tips you should keep in mind.

5 ways to use email automation to help you drive customer loyalty

Email automation is a great way to build customer loyalty. It can also help you reduce your customer churn rate and help you serve your customers better. However, you may not know how it can be used in your business.

1. Welcome new subscribers to your brand

Arguably one of the most effective ways to build customer loyalty is to make your audience feel welcome when they join your email list, and the easiest way is to welcome them with a personalized message.

Your audience wants not only to feel like they belong when they join your community but also to be treated like the individuals, they are. While personalizing each email you send out when your brand is relatively small is simple enough, once you start growing, email automation allows you to do this for many subscribers at once.

2. Build trust with your account holders and subscribers

Another benefit of email automation is that it can help you build trust with your subscribers and account holders when used correctly. This can be done in several different ways. Not only is the constant stream of relevant content coming into their inbox a way of building trust with your audience, but specific campaigns, such as email opt-in or security check-in campaigns, can help you prove to your audience that you are serious about protecting their information.

3. Create a customized experience

While personalization is key to creating a customized experience for your subscribers, you can use automation to take that experience to the next level. By providing your subscribers with options to choose their email preferences,

you can then use those settings to create campaigns based on those preferences and create a truly one-of-a-kind experience for each of your subscribers.

4. Deliver only the most relevant information

A massive part of a successful email marketing campaign is delivering only the most relevant information to each of your subscribers. Once you've properly segmented your audience based on their behaviors and preferences, you can use automation to ensure your audience is only getting the information they want. This will prove that you are a reliable source of information and help you build trust with your subscribers. This, in time, will help you drive customer loyalty.

5. Build authority amongst your audience and keep them coming back for more

When sending out email campaigns to your audience, you must ensure that you provide them with the information they want to receive. This will help you build authority amongst your audience. Once you prove to be a reliable source of information, they'll be more likely to want to receive your emails in the future, share them with their friends and colleagues, and help boost your overall engagement.

As you continue nurturing these relationships, word will spread of your brand and knowledge, which can go a long way in building customer loyalty in the long run.

Continue improving your email marketing strategy with the BBB

Email marketing is still as relevant as ever, and if you're looking to drive customer loyalty, you'll want to make sure you're using the tools to help you succeed, such as email automation.

If you need more information to help you improve your email marketing strategy, [check out the BBB business news feed](#) and the [BizHQ](#) today for more great information. To review this article and hyperlinked references in full, visit: <https://www.bbb.org/article/business/27182-bbb-business-tip-top-ways-to-use-email-automation-to-drive-customer-loyalty>

Contact your Tri-State BBB at 812-473-0202 to learn more about BBB Accreditation.

[BBB of Southern Piedmont and Western N.C.](#) contributed to this article.

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MAY 2024

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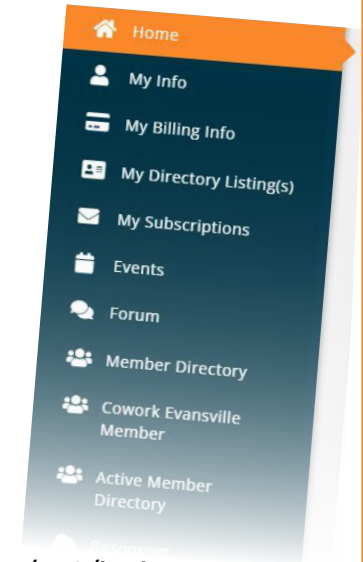
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- HANNAH KEOWN
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COWORK EVANSVILLE

Cowork Evansville Spotlight: Hannah Keown & Alex Turner

As Mortgage Loan Officers with InterLinc Mortgage, their dreams are to make your homeownership dreams come true.

Why Cowork Evansville?

Choosing Cowork Evansville was easy. The space offers the perfect blend of functionality and comfort, with access to amenities like conference rooms for meetings with clients, making it an ideal fit for our day-to-day operations.

Explore Cowork Evansville and
unlock a world of possibilities.
<https://bit.ly/3gi8t2d>



TOUR OUR SPACE

MILESTONES MAY 2024

Milestone celebrations are a benefit of Evansville Regional Economic Partnership membership. To request a milestone ribbon-cutting, click or scan the QR code.



MARTIN IP LAW GROUP/C3 SUITES

Martin IP Law Group/C3 Suites celebrated a grand opening with a ribbon-cutting at 220 N.W. 3rd St. in Evansville. C3 Suites is a unique work environment designed for small/solo business and remote workers who need a professional private office with amenities. C3 Suites offers 15 individual private office suites with shared conference rooms, internet, WiFi, printers, kitchen, lounges, bathrooms, etc. - all included with your monthly rent. Individual office suites start at only \$350 per month. With ample parking in the heart of Downtown Evansville, C3 Suites is the perfect place for your small business to grow and thrive! Contact them at 812-449-3274, rick@ipsolutionslaw.com, or on [Facebook](#).



EVANSVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT
Evansville Regional Airport celebrated a new air service route Tampa/St. Petersburg on Allegiant with a ribbon-cutting at 7801 Bussing Dr. in Evansville. Contact them at 812-421-4413, lfella@flyevv.com, or at www.flyevv.com.



COUNTRY FINANCIAL/ THE HAMMELMAN AGENCY

COUNTRY Financial/The Hammelman Agency celebrated the grand opening of a new location with a ribbon-cutting at 24816A W. Lloyd Expressway in Evansville. COUNTRY Financial/The Hammelman Agency is a full-service insurance agency (auto, home, life, small business, renters) that is deeply involved in helping improve the community through involvement and support. Contact them at 812-480-8267, mark.hammelman@countryfinancial.com, or at www.COUNTRYfinancial.com/mark.hammelman.com.



BROKER BROTHERS MORTGAGE
Broker Brothers Mortgage celebrated a grand opening with a ribbon-cutting at 220 N.W. 3rd St. in Evansville. Broker Brothers Mortgage is a mortgage broker that buys and refines homes. Contact them at 812-568-2955, caleb@brokerbrothersmortgage.com, or at www.brokerbrothersmortgage.com.



MR. GATTI'S PIZZA

Mr. Gatti's Pizza celebrated new ownership, a new name, and new games with a ribbon-cutting at 316 N. Green River Rd. in Evansville. Mr. Gatti's Pizza is more than just a place to enjoy a delicious slice of pizza - it's a hub for family fun and community gatherings. With a rich history dating back to 1969, Mr. Gatti's has been dedicated to bringing people together with our unbeatable combination of Pizza, Parties, and Fun. Contact them at 815-985-6610, megan.cote@pacmanpies.com, or at www.mrgattispizza.com/homepage/locations/gattitown-evansville/.



MAC INDUSTRIAL SERVICES
MAC Industrial Services celebrated an expansion with a ribbon-cutting at 1400 E. Division St. in Evansville. MAC Industrial Services have expanded their services to include residential. They provide cleaning, coating and painting services for industrial, commercial, and residential clients. Contact them at 812-838-1832 or at www.macindustrialservices.net.



REXING COMPANIES

Rexing Companies celebrated a new location with a ribbon-cutting at 3323 Interstate Dr. in Evansville. Rexing Companies is a one-stop shop for logistics, supply chain management, and warehousing. Their family of companies works together to offer a more personalized service and take pride in building strong business relationships. They will get you where you need to go. Contact them at 812-758-4661 ext. 1016, megan@rexingcompanies.com, or at www.rexingcompanies.com/about/.



BOLDAGE PACE

BoldAge PACE celebrated a grand opening with a ribbon-cutting at 700 E. Walnut St. in Evansville. BoldAge PACE is a program of all-inclusive care for the elderly. It is a community-based long term care option that allows frail older adults (55+) to safely remain in their homes. All of their supportive services are uniquely customized to each participant's need. PACE is the independence you want - the care you need. Contact them at 812-773-1523 or 812-483-3658, wlaffette@boldagepace.com, or at www.boldagepace.com.



CARVERS' GROOMERY

Carvers' Groomery celebrated a grand opening with a ribbon-cutting at 1400 E. Division St. in Evansville. Carvers' Groomery is a women-owned, family-run, local business. They are born and raised Hoosiers, sisters, best friends, moms, dog lovers, and now business owners. They specialize in grooming and pampering dogs, large and small. They treat their clients' dogs like family and love them just as much! Carvers' Groomery is clean, conveniently located, consistent in quality, and care deeply about dogs. Contact them at 812-435-9402, julia@carversgroomery.com, or at www.carversgroomery.com.



WESSELMAN WOODS NATURE PRESERVE

Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve celebrated a grand opening with a ribbon-cutting at 551 N.Boeke Rd. in Evansville. Wesselman Woods is opening the Arwood Family Treehouse in the Welborn Baptist Foundation Nature Playscape. The treehouse will be enjoyed by adults and children as they are able to play among the trees of the largest urban old-growth forest in the United States. Contact them at 317-420-5915, jerry@wesselmanwoods.org, or at www.wesselmanwoods.org.



STEVEN J. BRIDGES

The University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees announced the appointment of Steven J. Bridges as interim president, effective July 20. Bridges is a longtime USI employee and two-time USI alumnus and will be the first alumnus to serve in this leadership position. Since April 2015, he has served as the vice president for Finance and Administration (VPFA), the University's chief business and fiscal officer. Bridges will replace outgoing president Ronald S. Rochon, PhD, who has served the institution as its fourth President since 2018 and as Provost since 2010. Rochon accepted the presidency of California State University, Fullerton. Receiving his bachelor's degree in accounting from USI in 1988, Bridges began working for the university the following year as a staff accountant. His career progression continued to bursar, chief accountant, controller and assistant business office director, assistant and associate vice president and an interim appointment for operations and assistant treasurer, and eventually to VPFA. Along the way, he earned his MBA degree from USI. Bridges resides in Henderson, Kentucky, with his wife Rosemary. They have three adult children, three grandchildren, and a fourth grandchild is due this fall.



MARY BETH JOHNSON



LAUREN PIEKOS

Following a 42-year career at Atlas Van Lines, **Mary Beth Johnson**, vice president, business development, announced her retirement effective June 7. She will be succeeded in the role by the newly hired **Lauren Piekos**, who brings experience from the consumer packaging goods industry to Atlas. Johnson led Atlas through multiple industry-changing initiatives to ensure the organization remained a leading van line. Piekos has worked closely with Johnson while moving into her new role. Piekos spent more than a decade in the consumer packaging goods industry and has extensive franchise market lending skills. A graduate of Indiana University's Kelley School of Business and with a Master of Business Administration from the University of Southern Indiana, Piekos will guide the Atlas Van Lines team responsible for marketing, communication, product management, pricing, revenue management, and agent sales professionals.

ATLAS VAN LINES

Following a 42-year career at Atlas Van Lines, **Mary Beth Johnson**, vice president, business development, announced her retirement effective June 7. She will be succeeded in the role by the newly hired **Lauren Piekos**, who brings experience from the consumer packaging goods industry to Atlas. Johnson led Atlas through multiple industry-changing initiatives to ensure the organization remained a leading van line. Piekos has worked closely with Johnson while moving into her new role. Piekos spent more than a decade in the consumer packaging goods industry and has extensive franchise market lending skills. A graduate of Indiana University's Kelley School of Business and with a Master of Business Administration from the University of Southern Indiana, Piekos will guide the Atlas Van Lines team responsible for marketing, communication, product management, pricing, revenue management, and agent sales professionals.



ARIAH LEARY

The Office of Evansville Mayor Stephanie Terry announced Aria Leary as its new community affairs and special projects director. Leary, an Evansville native, is a graduate of Indiana State University, where she majored in Public Health. She joins the mayor's office from the YMCA of Southwestern Indiana, where she served as director of 21st Century Programs. Leary also is the assistant treasurer for the Evansville Branch of the NAACP, and is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Zeta Zeta Omega Chapter. In her spare time she enjoys graphic design and pageantry. In 2023 she was second runner-up for Miss Indiana USA.



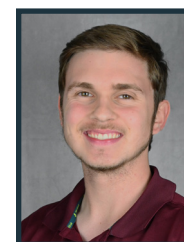
AMY FISHER

Amy Fisher was selected as director of university budgeting at the University of Southern Indiana. She will report to Jeff Sickman, assistant vice president for Finance and Administration and Assistant Treasurer. As director, Fisher will direct the development and administration of university operating, capital, project, and grant budgets in accord with the requirements of the State of Indiana, other applicable regulations, and institutional policies. Fisher previously served as Controller for JL Equipment/H&R Agri-Power in Poseyville, Indiana. Prior, she served in a multitude of roles at USI, including manager of university budgets, manager of accounting operations, senior accountant and staff accountant. She holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and an MBA, both from USI.



LEAH DAVIS

Leah Davis, disability support advisor at Ivy Tech Community College Evansville, was honored with the President's Spirit of Diversity Award for 2024. According to her nomination, Davis, a 16-year employee of Ivy Tech Evansville, remains deeply committed to raising awareness for students who need disability support.



KYLE ECHERT

Kyle Echert joined Fit Tight Covers as a design intern. He plans to graduate from the University of Southern Indiana in December 2026 with a degree in mechanical engineering.

ALCOA WARRICK OPERATIONS

Alcoa Warrick Operations announced new hires:



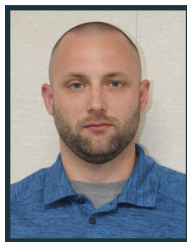
KYLE BEST

Kyle Best, carbon plant supervisor, joined the Alcoa team from Magnitude 7 Metals in Missouri, where he previously worked as a carbon bake supervisor and carbon process engineer.



JEFF FRANCE

Jeff France, aluminum plant supervisor, rejoined Alcoa which he originally served beginning in November 2019 as a production crew lead. He went to Kaiser Aluminum when the Rolling Mill portion of the Warrick plant was sold in April 2021, where he continued as a production supervisor. Most recently, he worked at SRG Global as a production supervisor. France attended Ivy Tech Community College, and he holds a White Belt in Lean Six Sigma.



BRYAN ARCHIBALD

Bryan Archibald, mold line supervisor, started at Alcoa with a combined six years of experience in law enforcement, having worked as a confinement officer, police officer and town marshal in Princeton, Vanderburgh County, and Francisco. He previously was a team leader at Toyota for 10 years, from 2011 to 2021, and he served as an automated logistical specialist in the U.S. Army National Guard. Archibald holds an associate degree in Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Related Protective Services from Vincennes University.



TAYLOR WHIPPLE

Taylor Whipple, Financial Analyst, joined Alcoa from Reckitt Benckiser, where she was an Accounts Receivable Deduction Analyst. Whipple served in the U.S. Army National Guard as a 68W Combat Medic from October 2014 to March 2018. She is currently working toward her Bachelor of Business Administration and Project Management from Colorado Technical University, with an anticipated completion date of June 2024.



LARRY QUICK

Power Plant Group Leader Larry Quick joined Alcoa after previously working for Synthetic Materials "SynMat"/Eco Materials Technology, where he was Superintendent for 13 years.



SCOTT VO

Scott Vo, mechanical engineer, began his career at Alcoa after most recently working as the new product research and development mechanical engineer for Briggs & Stratton LLC. He is a graduate of the University of Southern Indiana with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering.



DR. DAVID HENRIQUES

Dr. David Henriques was selected as executive director for Student Success at the University of Southern Indiana. He will report to Troy Miller, vice president for strategic enrollment Management. Henriques will provide strategic leadership and vision for University Division to enhance student success, retention, and graduation rates. He will lead a team of full-time staff, senior administrative assistants, graduate assistants, and undergraduate student employees in the Center for Exploring Majors, the four undergraduate advising centers, Academic Skills and Career Counseling. Henriques served in various faculty and administrative roles supporting student equity, transition, belonging, success, persistence and retention, and campus-wide academic advising programs. He has significant experience in advocating for, implementing, designing, and teaching within first-year experience programs. Additionally, he has led programs for undeclared students, placement testing, career exploration, and academic coaching. Most recently, Henriques served as an assistant professor in the Department of Academic Advisement and Student Development at Millersville University of Pennsylvania. He also served as the coordinator of the Exploratory Program and the director of Academic Advising. His research interests include academic advising, student resiliency, learning communities, first-year and first-generation students, student-athletes, and programs for undecided/undeclared students. Henriques earned his bachelor degree in psychology and his master degree in clinical psychology, both from Millersville University of Pennsylvania. He also holds a master degree in adult education and a doctorate in higher education administration, both from Widener University.



ZACH VIRGIN

Zach Virgin joined Elite Environmental as the general manager. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from the University of Phoenix, with an expected graduation in 2025. He is also planning to earn his MBA from the University of Tennessee. Before joining Elite, he held management positions at local industrial plants, where he gained valuable experience in overseeing operations and leading teams.

GRIBBINS INSULATION & SCAFFOLDING

Gribbins Insulation & Scaffolding added six new employees and made two promotions:



ADAM HARPENAU

Adam Harpenau joined Gribbins as an accounting intern. He is currently a senior at the University of Southern Indiana, pursuing a degree in economics. Before Gribbins, he gained industry experience as a laborer in construction during the summer for a couple of years.



ADAM WEIHE

Adam Weihe joined Gribbins as a construction management Intern. He attends the University of Southern Indiana, where he is completing his bachelor degree in Manufacturing Engineering Technology. Weihe worked as a project technician at USI, where he spent the past year building prototypes for clients.



TOM PAWLOWSKI

Tom Pawlowski joined Gribbins as the assistant project manager in Indianapolis. He attended Marian University, where he graduated with a degree in business administration, majoring in business management. He previously specialized in underground pipeline construction.



TOMMY PRESLEY

Tommy Presley joined Gribbins as an estimator/project manager in Nashville. With 26 years of experience as an insulator and almost seven years in estimating, Tommy's field experience has equipped him to understand what is needed beyond what is shown on blueprints.



DANI GIRON

Dani Giron joined Gribbins as the assistant project manager in Louisville. He graduated from the University of Louisville with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. During college, Giron worked with a general contractor, where he picked up technical knowledge and project management skills, including team communication, coordination, and problem-solving.



RODNEY MORGAN

Rodney Morgan is now a construction warehouse associate with ProTherm Supply. He brings 27 years of experience in injection molding, along with hands-on construction work with his family. He also has three years of experience in delivery and driving.



ASHLEY TYNES

Ashley Tynes joined Gribbins as a billing specialist. She is originally from Tell City, Indiana, and moved to Evansville to attend the University of Southern Indiana, where she studied social work and psychology. Ashley's diverse background includes extensive experience in management and operations, with her most recent role being in human resources, payroll, and benefits.



AUDREY SENG

Audrey Seng joined full-time at Gribbins as the marketing and communications coordinator after graduating from the University of Southern Indiana with a bachelor's degree in Public Relations and Advertising and a minor in Social Media. Last year, she started as the marketing intern, managing the website and social media accounts. Before Gribbins, Seng worked at USI under the digital marketing coordinator and at Berry Global as the communications intern.



BRANDON WILLIAMS

Brandon Williams was promoted to estimator/project manager. He joined Gribbins in 2012 as an apprentice and worked his way up to become a general foreman. In his previous role, Williams was responsible for managing insulators, conducting take-offs, and planning work.

FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK

First Federal Savings Bank announced two promotions:



ANJEL HILLENBRAND

Anjel Hillenbrand, with 7.5 years of service to the bank, was promoted from processing underwriting manager, AVP, to retail lending operations manager, VP. Hillenbrand has more than seven years of banking/lending experience and more than two years in real estate.



ALEX IBER

Alex Iber, who joined First Federal two years ago, was promoted from Retail loan advisor officer to construction coordinator, AVP. A graduate of Texas A&M University with a B.S. in Economics, Iber has a background in personal finance, having spent two years in the field in Texas. Beyond his professional achievements, he serves as a financial partner with Habitat for Humanity and volunteers with Rotary initiatives.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA

The University of Southern Indiana’s College of Liberal Arts made 10 promotions:



DR. ANDREW BUCK



DR. SRI DANDOTKAR



DR. ROBERT DICKES



DR. WESLEY DURHAM



DR. TRENT ENGBERS



DR. SUKANYA GUPTA



MS. ALISA "AL" HOLEN



DR. DAVID O'NEIL



DR. KRISTALYN SHEFVELAND



DR. MIKE STREZEWSKI

Dr. Andrew Buck – promoted to professor of Sociology

Dr. Sri Dandotkar – promoted to associate professor of Psychology

Dr. Robert Dickes – promoted to associate professor of Photography and Digital Imaging

Dr. Wesley Durham – promoted to professor of Communication Studies

Dr. Trent Engbers – promoted to professor of Political Science and Public Administration

Dr. Sukanya Gupta – promoted to professor of English

Ms. Alisa "Al" Holen – promoted to professor of Ceramics

Dr. David O'Neil – promoted to associate professor of English

Dr. Kristalyn Shefeland – promoted to professor of History

Dr. Mike Strezewski – promoted to professor of Anthropology

ECHO HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ECHO Housing and Community Development has made new hires and promotions:



LARRY NEWELL

Larry Newell joined ECHO as a veteran navigator for the Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP) which operates out of the Historic Gresham House. Newell was born and raised in central Illinois and moved to Evansville after eight years in the U.S. Air Force. He spent more than 10 years working in the legal field before coming to ECHO. Working in HVRP with his fellow veterans fulfills one of his lifetime goals.



ADAM COMMENS

Adam Commens is the new coordinator for the Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP). Adam served in the U.S. Army for six years, then returned home to attend USI and earn his bachelor’s degree in social work. He comes to ECHO after working six years for the Dubois County Drug Court.



CHRISTA THOMAS

Christa Thomas is the new case manager for the Scattered Site Permanent Supportive Housing program. She has experience working in rapid rehousing and street outreach and has become a certified peer support specialist. Since earning her associate’s degree in human services at Ivy Tech, Thomas is now working on her Bachelor’s of Social Work at Indiana Wesleyan University.



NICOLE EGAN

Nicole Egan was hired as family enrichment coordinator at Lucas Place. Egan owned and operated a daycare for 10 years and has more than 12 years of early childhood education experience.



MERRICK KORACH

Merrick Korach was hired as the new community development director at ECHO Housing & Community Development. Korach, a native of Evansville, is committed to positive change and is dedicated to entrepreneurship, advocacy, and fostering inclusive community growth. Korach’s commitment to fostering collaboration and innovation is exemplified through his ongoing success story with the Bedford Collab.



LAMON PHILLIPS

Lamon Phillips was previously the case manager at Garvin Lofts. He has now been promoted to program manager of Garvin Lofts.

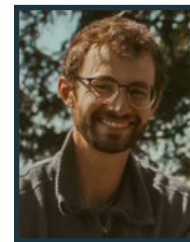


MINDY YOUNGS

Mindy Youngs was previously the Case manager at Lucas Place II and has been promoted to program manager of that same program.

TOWNSQUARE MEDIA

Townsquare Media made three new hires:



NICK COOPER

Nick Cooper is the digital campaign coordinator. With a bachelor’s degree in Business administration from Kentucky Wesleyan College, Cooper will assist market strategists with upcoming trends and new opportunities for growth for clients.



ROB RICH

Rob Rich is a mMarket strategist. With his MBA in business administration from the University of Southern Indiana, he will connect with local businesses to provide marketing solutions.



JAKE FOSTER

Jake Foster is a content writer and afternoon radio host. With a bachelor of science from Indiana Wesleyan College, he will author articles on the WKDQ website and fill the afternoons with country music.

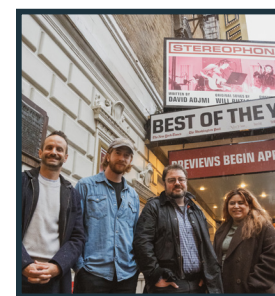
Every Friday 8:00 - 9:30 AM
SIGN UP AT: WWW.EVANSVILLEREGION.COM



TIFFANI CLAUSSEN

Amprod, LLC, a member of Koch Enterprises, named Tiffani Claussen as the new CEO. She will take over the position from Bill Hammitt, who is retiring. Claussen has worked at Amprod since 2019, when she joined as CFO. She was later promoted to general manager at Watson Metal Masters, a division of Amprod. Amprod is also the parent company to American Products, DustShield and EnSight Solutions. All the divisions’ headquarters and manufacturing facilities are located in Missouri. The divisions each serve their own unique industries. Hammitt had been with Amprod for 17 years, starting as COO before becoming CEO in 2022. During his tenure, she led multiple division acquisitions and sales to help grow the company’s assets.

UNIVERSITY OF EVANSVILLE THEATRE



STEREOPHONIC, with strong ties to University of Evansville Theatre, captured the Tony Award for Best Play at the 77th Annual Tony Awards, held at Lincoln Center’s David H. Koch Theater in New York. STEREOPHONIC secured five major awards. In addition to Best Play (David Adjimi, playwright), the production was

honored with awards for Best Direction of a Play (Daniel Aukin), Best Featured Actor in a Play (Will Brill), Best Sound Design of a Play (Ryan Rumery), and Best Scenic Design of a Play (David Zinn). Four UE alumni played key roles, including lead producer Nick Mills and co-producer Assistant Professor Wes Grantom, both from the class of 2003. Additional contributions come from Miriam Cortes ‘21, Assistant Costume Designer, and Benjamin Anderson ‘15, the understudy actor for the roles of “Charlie” and “Peter.” Loosely inspired by Fleetwood Mac and their seminal album Rumours, STEREOPHONIC delves into the creative struggles and triumphs of a rising rock band in 1976.

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