



# 2019 ANNUAL STAKEHOLDER REPORT



## WHAT YOU'LL FIND

---

2019 Projects & Impact -  
P. 2-3

---

Workforce Coalition -  
P. 4-5

---

Quality of Place -  
P. 6-7

---

A Letter from the CEO -  
P. 8

---

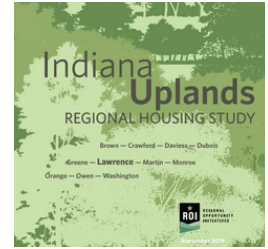
## LAWRENCE COUNTY ECONOMIC GROWTH COUNCIL

Supporting growth of Lawrence County businesses including startup support, workforce solutions, and technical assistance which promotes investment that improves the quality of life for our citizens.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# 30+

Reviewed and analyzed over 30 state projects for possible submission.



# 200+

Collaborated with over 200 businesses and organizations in industries such as education, government and human services.

# \$11.5+ MILLION

new investment into the Lawrence County community with expansions, acquisitions and new business ventures.



EMBREE MACHINE INC.



# 23

Worked with 23 individuals interested in starting a company in Lawrence County.



# \$40,000

Provided two, \$20,000 revolving loans to local startup companies that spurred major growth for both businesses.



**LEHIGH**  
HEIDELBERGCEMENT Group

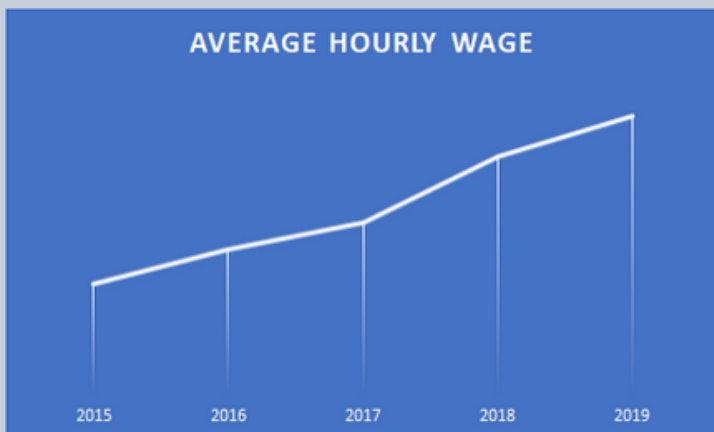


# \$45 MILLION

potential increase tax-revenue base as a result of the state-of-the-art \$600 million Leigh Hanson Cement Plant expansion in Mitchell, Indiana.

# 5%

increase in Lawrence County's average hourly wage year-over-year. This represents the second-highest county increase in Southwest Indiana.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor

# \$36+ MILLION

in potential annual economic impact as a result of investment in Lawrence County throughout 2019.



# WORKFORCE COALITION

# 585

information request forms submitted on [www.getmyhse.org](http://www.getmyhse.org). With an exceptional 25.66% conversion rate.

High School  
Equivalency Diploma



# 240%

increase in HSE attainment, with over 400 HSE preparation hours completed in the classroom in partnership with Vincennes University and WorkOne.



# 3,500+

page views on [getmyhse.org](http://getmyhse.org). There were also approximately 14,000 impressions using Facebook advertising.

# \$250,000+

in financial and in-kind donations facilitated by the Workforce Coalition via their partnerships, collaborations and programs.



# \$10,000

donated to secure funding for a non-traditional career fair over 3 years. More than 60 female students participated in the 1st annual non-traditional career fair to expose them to high-paying and attainable jobs in atypical fields for women.



# \$12,000

Local Career Coaching Planning Grant awarded by the Governor's Workforce Cabinet as a result of a collaborative and unprecedented partnership between school corporations, government, businesses and community organizations.

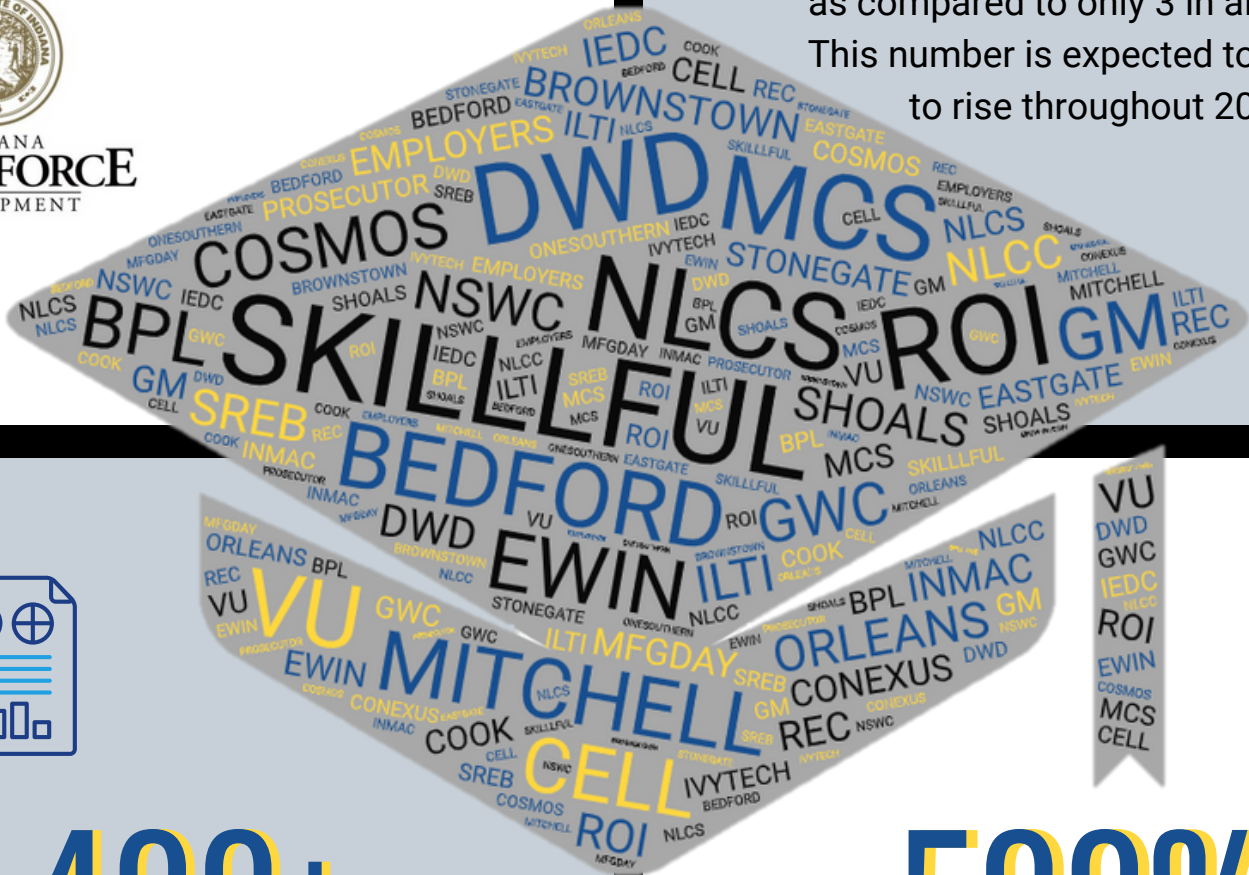


INDIANA  
**WORKFORCE**  
DEVELOPMENT



# 433%

increase in Conexus Intern participation. In 2019 Lawrence County produced 13 Conexus interns as compared to only 3 in all of 2018. This number is expected to continue to rise throughout 2020.



# 400+

employer contacts logged in our Local Employer Database to be used as a community resource and communication tool for opportunities and announcements.

# 500%

growth in Lawrence County internships, increasing to 105 in 2019 from 21 in 2018. 14 summer interns participated in National Intern Day & presented to over 30 community leaders, including the Lawrence County Economic Growth Council Board of Directors.



# QUALITY OF PLACE

Awarded Ready Communities Planning Grant and completed Quality of Place and Workforce Attraction Plan to be eligible for

# \$1.86 MILLION

in Implementation Grants awarded by Regional Opportunities Initiatives as part of its Ready Communities Program.



Lawrence County, Indiana



Establish the Avoca Fish Hatchery as Lawrence County's first public park. This grant will fund renovations to a historic two-story shelter house, improvements to the walking trail with compact stone, mile markers and directional signage, and preparations for an auxiliary volunteer fire station on the property. The Lawrence County Park Foundation will also be created to provide a new unifying entity, providing opportunities to support, preservation, and maintenance for the county's new parks system.

# \$305k

awarded to 2 projects in Lawrence County.



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
OF LAWRENCE COUNTY, INC.

Renovate the teen building and create The Launching Center, a multi-use STEM space featuring robotics, a makerspace, and a tech shop for elementary school children and teens in after-school programming. The Launching Center will introduce students to regionally relevant in-demand skills and jobs through project-based learning, soft-skills training, career awareness, and pathway activities.

**ROI** REGIONAL OPPORTUNITY INITIATIVES

Participated in the Regional Opportunity Initiatives Uplands Housing Technical Committee to identify workforce housing needs and create strategies for potential opportunities. A group of community members met to discuss the findings potential next steps.



Participated in local Food Security discussions, surveys and assisted in the first Indiana Uplands Winter Food Conference taking place January 30th at StoneGate Arts & Education Center.



Attended community meetings for the town of Huron, facilitated by Southern Indiana Development Commission's, Rex Knight. The group completed a SWOT analysis for the community, identifying areas of both strength and weakness in order to create committees for future projects and development.

## BETTER BEDFORD COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

DRAFT NOVEMBER 2019

DRAFT DOCUMENT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW  
Please contact Katy Shackelford, AICP with any  
questions and comments  
314-446-5404  
kshackelford@lochgroup.com



Served as a member of the City of Bedford Comprehensive Plan steering committee. The plan was published in November and is intended to guide decisions pertaining to Bedford's future growth and development.



Provided financial assistance to the City of Mitchell in partnership with Hoosier Uplands for infrastructure development and beautification. East Main St. was paved to support the upcoming Lehigh project and over 3.5 miles of sidewalks have been upgraded. The city plans to continue applying for infrastructure improvement grants through Community Crossings and OCRA.

# A LETTER FROM THE CEO



Our organization, realizing that the days of traditional economic development are long gone, began 2019 with the new mission of providing for the growth of business, existing organizations and those locating in Lawrence County, including start-up support, workforce solutions, and technical assistance that encourages investment that improves the quality of life for our citizens.

While we hover around record low unemployment, have few available industrial buildings, and a strong demand signal in the local housing market, the past decade also brought major challenges for our community. Robotics and automation have altered the way products are produced globally, consumer expectations have shifted, and we are more connected to the world than ever. These trends are expected to increase exponentially, and we must continue to work on local solutions to target them. Our leaders must adapt to these changes to remain competitive in their markets, continue to look at opportunities to diversify our local economy, and be open to opportunities and strategies that create sustainable growth. Our community at large must embrace these challenges, support innovative solutions, be ok with failed experiments, and place resources on the most effective programs.

Over the past couple years, we have uncovered unprecedented support for our organization's workforce coalition. This arm of our organization is a continuing effort to help increase effective communication, collaboration, and programing between state, regional, and local organizations. While collaboration is not easy, the work of the coalition has already yielded amazing results. For example, in 2019, we have been able to foster connections that provided an additional \$200,000.00 worth of support to our local educators. Through the changes provided by our mission, we will continue to explore ways that we can 1) foster communication and collaboration 2) provide opportunity and reduce barriers for those desiring to train/retrain 3) look at ways to assist increasing educational attainment in Lawrence County.

Finally, we want to thank our members for their support of our organization. Their guidance and willingness to support economic development in Lawrence County has allowed us to become a community that our peers look to for innovative solutions. We have been able to help guide significant new investment into Lawrence County, dramatically increase total taxable value in real and personal property and provide leadership in initiatives from quality of place projects to entrepreneurship programs. It is through member support that we have been able to accomplish so much, and we look forward to being able to build upon our victories to create opportunity and enhance our local economy.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shance Sizemore'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Shance Sizemore  
CEO



# MEET THE TEAM



**SHANCE SIZEMORE**  
CEO



**JOE TIMBROOK**  
Director of Career  
Development



**HEATHER NASH**  
Internship Program  
Manager



**KAYLA BRYANT**  
Marketing  
Manager

## WHAT WE DO

Business Retention &  
Expansion

Business Attraction

Career Development

Education and  
Training Development

Quality Of Place  
Enhancement



1116 16th St  
Bedford, IN 47421  
812-275-4493

[www.lawrencecountygrowth.com](http://www.lawrencecountygrowth.com)



# EXECUTIVE BOARD



# FULL BOARD

- Aaron Brewington, Smithville Fiber
- Addie Datish, Hoosier Uplands
- Angela Russell, GM Powertrain
- Barbara Wright, RE/Max Real Estate Center
- Brad Dykes, I.U. Health Bedford Hospital
- Brian Gildea, Vectren Energy
- Bruce Calloway, Duke Energy
- Carlos Gaitani, Tri-Star Engineering
- Cheryl Bolton, Oakland City University
- Christy Langley, Hoosier Energy
- Cory Johnson, JA Benefits, LLC
- Danny Powell, Mitchell Crushed Stone/Rogers Group
- Darren Fortner, Bedford Cellular/Wireless Zone
- David Miller, Hoosier Uplands
- Debbie Deckard, Turpen & Deckard, LLC
- Doug Conrad, Bedford Machine & Tool, Inc.
- Doug Kellams, Tri-County Builders Co., Inc.
- Ed Epping, Lifetime Member
- Everett Southern, German American Bancorp
- Gene McCracken, Lawrence County Commissioner
- George McNichols, Hoosier Hills Credit Union
- Hope Flores, Lawrence Co. Comm. Foundation
- J.D. England, Mayor, City of Mitchell
- Jason Terrell, Bedford Federal Savings Bank
- Jerry Miller, Lehigh Cement Company
- Jessica Strunk, Ivy Tech Community College
- Larry Hensley, Times-Mail
- Larry Ikerd, Johnny's Signs, Inc.
- Liz Irwin, Smithville Digital
- Mark McKinney, Jackson County R.E.M.C.
- Matt Parker, Parker Group
- Mike Arvin, Daviess-Martin REMC
- Mike Foster, NSWC Crane
- Mike Kern, Gaylor, Inc.
- Nan Morrow, Hoosier Hills Credit Union
- Pepper Mulherin, AT&T
- Richard Burton, Bedford Ford Lincoln-Mercury
- Robin Collingsworth, Jackson County Bank
- Shance Sizemore, Bedford Chamber of Commerce
- Shawna Girgis, Mayor, City of Bedford
- Susan Johnson, Old National Bank
- Teresa Reynolds, Southern Indiana Center for Independent Living
- Tim Deckard, D & M Tool Corporation
- Tonya Chastain, Lawrence County Tourism
- Troy Whittington, Harrell-Fish Inc.
- Adele Bowden-Purlee, SOAR
- Fank Decker, Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence County
- Jeff Armstrong, URS
- Jeff Quyle, Radius Indiana
- Kevin Day, SAIC
- Marvin Patton, Mitchell Chamber of Commerce
- Steve Phillips, Mitchell Community Schools
- Susan Hayes, StoneGate Arts & Education Center
- Susan Vaughn, Indiana Economic Development Corporation



LAWRENCE  
COUNTY  
ECONOMIC  
GROWTH  
COUNCIL