



DeKalb County

Economic Development Partnership Inc.

Ashley • Auburn • Butler • Corunna • Garrett • Hamilton • St. Joe • Waterloo



Your Opportunity – Our Priority

2019

Annual Report



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The board gratefully acknowledges the DeKalb County Commissioners, the DeKalb County Council, Mayor Mike Ley (Auburn), Mayor Mike Hartman (Butler), Mayor Todd Fiandt (Garrett), and all city and town councils for their leadership and commitment to economic development.

Standing (L-R): Jack Bercaw, At-large, Banking & Finance - Vice President
Pam Howard, Town of Waterloo
Bret Claghorn, At-large, DeKalb Health - Treasurer
Mike Ley, City of Auburn
Jim McCanna, DeKalb Attorney, County Commissioners
Steve Bingham, City of Butler
Mike Hasselman, Town of Ashley - President
Danielle Aldrich, Town of Corunna

Seated (L-R): Amy Demske, DeKalb County Council
Debra Bruce, Administrative Assistant (Staff)
Anton King, Executive Director (Staff)
Sarina Harig, Project Specialist (Staff)
Mary Simcox, Town of St. Joe - Secretary

Not Pictured: Darrick Brinkerhoff, City of Garrett
Brent Shull, Town of Hamilton

The board consists of twelve members. Ten are appointed by county, city, and town officials and two are appointed by the board.



STRATEGIC PLANNING

At the DeKalb County Economic Development Partnership, we like to strategize and plan, which is done by creating measurable goals.

- **Committed and serving as a cohesive team: accessible, responsive, knowledgeable, & flexible.**
- **Improving quality of life, enhancing employment opportunities, & responsible growth of business & industry.**
- **Have a diverse economic base, improve infrastructure, support, & promote all fields of business and industry.**

KEY ACTIVITIES

Collaboration & Networking: we work with organizations/entities to complete tasks. These include cities and towns, Indiana Community Development Corp., Indiana and regional economic development agencies, the SBDC, civic and elected leaders, OCRA, WorkOne, Ivy Tech, brokers , utilities, and site selectors.

Industrial Attraction: receive leads and submit requests for information.

Consultation & Service: tax phase-in and resolution preparations, abatement calculations, TIF infrastructure and social economic demographic dissemination.

Workforce Development: serve on DeKalb Learning Link and participate in LAUNCH DeKalb. Assist Northeast Indiana Works with program promotion.

Education & Information: partner in the Five-County Economic Development Forum for local officials. Enhance social media interaction and launched website.

Business Expansion & Retention: initiate connections with businesses on expansions, program alignment, logistics, and retention challenges.





Students from Garrett High School's Career Development program, nationally recognized and named semifinalists for the 2019 Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence.

SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYTICS



Page Likes: 863

Q1: 723

Q2: 816

Q3: 841

Q4: 863

Followers- 875



of Tweets: 131

Impressions: 63,276

Followers- 173



**Followers- 158
(73 new)**

of Updates: 144

**Engagement Rate:
7.49%**

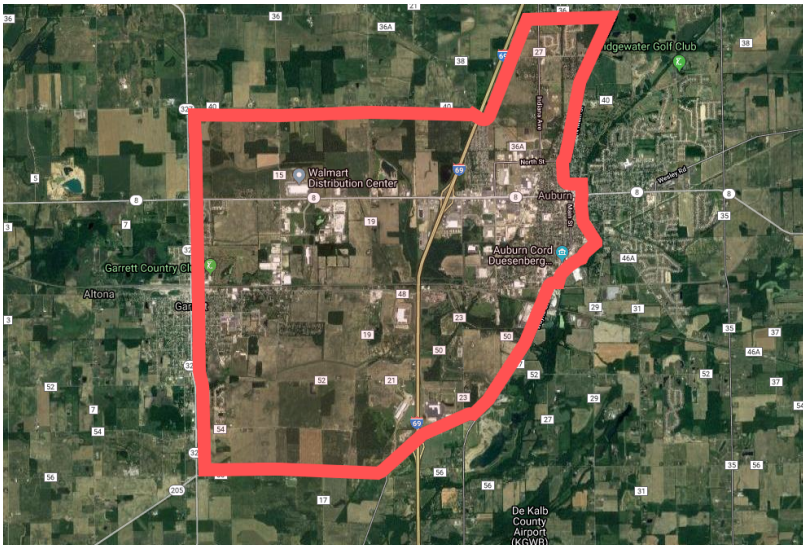
OUR KEY PARTNERS

The DCEDP works with key partners to provide the best service possible. We help with answering inquiries, providing incentive consultation, and assist in expanding, relocating, & investing.

- Municipalities of DeKalb County



OPPORTUNITY ZONE



A region of DeKalb County was chosen as one of the state's first six Rural Opportunity Zones. The zone is the western half of Auburn, eastern half of Garrett.

Projects can include:

- Housing
- Small Business
- Health Clinic
- Start-ups
- Warehouse/Logistics
- Broadband
- Infrastructure
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Mixed Uses
- Agribusiness/Food Processing



Tower Automotive

Capital Investment: \$10,650,000

New Jobs: 25

Project Completed: March 2019



Holiday Inn Express

Capital Investment: \$4,700,000

New Jobs: 20

Project Completed: August 2019



DeKalb High School senior, Blake Webb received the 100th Farnsworth Fund grant to support his winning startup. Pictured (L-R):

Blake Webb, Anton King.



The purpose of Launch DeKalb is to encourage entrepreneurship in the high schools. We find that even if the students don't place in the event, they develop very important and crucial skills for their next stage of growth. This can set them apart as they continue on their path of employment," said Anton King, executive director of DeKalb County Economic Development Partnership.

2019 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

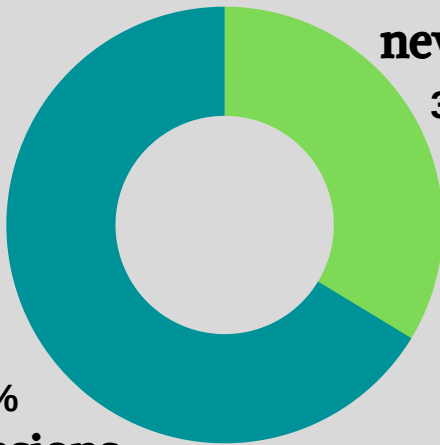
Jobs
1,254
Retained

*Leads
Received*
113

124 *company
contacts/visits*

Leads Worked
72

\$51,374
Median Income



new businesses
33.7%

66.3%
expansions

Total Investment
\$29,207,850

21
**deals
won**

Jobs Pledged
141

Over
26
*regional meetings with
key regional leaders*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Expansions



New



- JD Axles
- Dave's Burgers

INVESTMENTS

2019 was a solid year for new investments in DeKalb County.

- Internally recorded \$9.8 million of new businesses/industries. An \$8.1 million increase from the previous year.
- \$19.4 million investment in expansions of businesses/industries in DeKalb.



2019 EVENTS



Groundbreaking of Veteran's Memorial Park in Waterloo.



Fawn Creek Estates broke ground in DeKalb County.

- **DeKalb County EDP launched new website.**
- **Hosted first DeKalb County Economic Development Summit.**
- **Auburn ranked 13th best city to live in Indiana for families - *Wallet Hub*.**
- **Team Quality Services completed building their headquarter office downtown Auburn.**
- **1st place winner of Launch DeKalb, Blake Webb, launched Konnect Hosting and has an international presence.**



Pictured: Garrett High School Career Development Program: Brennan Estates groundbreaking

INVESTORS

The DeKalb County Economic Development Partnership is supported by the generous investments from our county's top industries and the communities we represent. Their support is critical to expand our economic base. Business, civic and elected leaders realize a vibrant community is required to support our economic base and that a community and economic prosperity go hand in hand.



Anton King, Executive Director
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