



Annual Report

Whitley County
Economic Development Corporation

2020

Whitley EDC Board Chair Report

First, I would like to thank our Whitley County businesses, leaders and residents for their resilience through 2020. In the non-traditional year we saw Whitley County businesses and industry, for the most part, remain stable. It gives me confidence in the ability for Whitley County to shift and prosper through changes and economical shifts. The year was still a year of growth with more than \$31 million in capital investment and more than 100 jobs committed, which you'll see on the following pages.

The Whitley County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) also transitioned through

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in Whitley County.***

a leadership change with the hiring of Dale Buuck. The Whitley EDC board went through an interview process with applicants across the country and are pleased with Dale's leadership and continuation of the economic development efforts in Whitley County. The entire organization has put together a series of action items to continue defining what

economic development is and how industry can continue to grow.

Concerning 2021, I would like to highlight the amount of small business support offered through the Whitley EDC services and the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) office already this year. As of the end of March more than \$75,000 has already supported small businesses and more money is available to distribute.

Marketing has also been a top priority for the Whitley EDC in 2020 and into 2021 with the Whitley EDC logo on the front of the world's top site selection magazine, FDI Alliance, more than once and an increased following on all social media platforms. Whitley County is still very much alive and noticed among industries like medical device, advanced manufacturing and defense and growing in other industries and small businesses on main streets in our towns and city.

We know Whitley County is a desirable place for industry and to raise families and as we look for the future Whitley EDC hopes to become a stronger community pillar and have more of an established brand. I speak for the board of directors when I say, we are glad you are with us in Whitley County!



Brooks Langeloh, 2020 Board Chair

President's Note



DALE BUUCK

As I reflect on my first year here at the Whitley EDC, to say it was interesting and tumultuous would be an understatement. For me, 2020 was a year of excitement and fulfillment. It started with a ground-breaking at Sterigenics (formally Iotron Industries) and ended with the sale of our spec building in

Rail Connect Park. Between, there was plenty of COVID-19 related activities, which included helping several companies with Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) pandemic-related loans.

The enjoyable part was getting to know this county better and the dedicated, hardworking folks that make it work. One of the more rewarding activities for me included my involvement with Leadership Whitley county. The 20 year anniversary class was a bit more effort than normal because,

well, it was not a normal year. However, the class continued to meet and persevered with distancing and safety protocols.

Whitley County has a strong economic and promising outlook. The phones are constantly ringing here at the Whitley EDC with businesses looking to investigate the possibilities of locating here. One key effort we are making is creating sites so those folks can have a place to land. In concert with that, we are just as diligently doing our part to assist with needed housing developments. I am hopeful the 2021 annual report will announce significant wins on both of those fronts.

For this second year, I am looking forward to getting out to meet even more of you and focus on marketing the county to help share the goodness of this great community.



Whitley EDC Mission

The mission of Whitley EDC is to lead a comprehensive economic strategy that retains and expands opportunities and wealth and attracts capital investment to Whitley County.





2020 Investors

Building Contractors
Association

cluster

Micropulse
Incorporated

NORTHEASTERN REMC
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

PDQ
Workholding

ULTRA

2020 Financial Supporters

- ▶ Brian More
- ▶ C&A Tool
- ▶ Churubusco
- ▶ Churubusco Chamber of Commerce
- ▶ Churubusco Rotary Club
- ▶ Columbia City
- ▶ Community Foundation of Whitley County
- ▶ Duke Energy
- ▶ Fort Wayne Metals
- ▶ Fox Products
- ▶ Indiana Michigan Power
- ▶ Dr. Lisa Hatcher
- ▶ Larwill
- ▶ Manchester University
- ▶ Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership
- ▶ NIPSCO
- ▶ South Whitley
- ▶ South Whitley Community Facilities
- ▶ Steel Dynamics, Inc.
- ▶ United Way of Whitley County
- ▶ USDA
- ▶ Whitko Community Schools
- ▶ Whitley County
- ▶ The Zacher Company

Financial Report for 2020

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Current Assets	\$512,995.20
Fixed Assets	\$2,698.66
Notes Receivable	\$207,435.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$723,128.86

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities	\$25,958.43
Equity	\$697,170.43
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$723,128.86

PROFIT AND LOSS

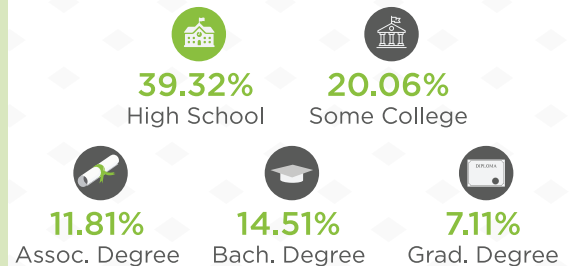
Revenue	\$502,609.19
Expenditures	\$560,068.21
NET REVENUE FOR 2020	- \$57,459.02

Labor Force at a Glance



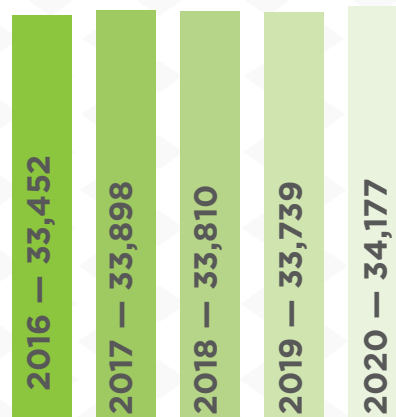
LABOR FORCE TOTALS

WHITLEY COUNTY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



Whitley County Population

POPULATION TOTALS



AGE DISTRIBUTION



41
Median Age

Data Source: Zoomprospector.com



Whitley County Year in Review



\$31.58M

CAPITAL
INVESTMENT



134

JOBS
COMMITTED



\$44,000

LOANED TO SMALL
BUSINESSES



\$63,167

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD
INCOME

2020 Project Timeline

March | Artistic Holiday Designs
Attraction

May | Kyocera
Expansion

Aug. | Pyrotek
Expansion

Dec. | ChromaSource
Expansion

May | Sterigenics (Iotron)
Expansion

Aug. | Ag Plus
Expansion

Nov. | Indiana Materials Processing
Expansion

Dec. | Sailrite
Expansion



2020 Highlight Headlines

- ▶ Larwill TIF District Established
- ▶ Custom Holiday Lighting Company Chooses South Whitley to Expand Operations
- ▶ Dale Buuck Joins Whitley EDC as President
- ▶ Whitko Career Academy Begins Classes
- ▶ New Columbia City High School Opens
- ▶ OCRA Awards Whitley County \$250,000 to Support Small Businesses
- ▶ Whitley County Schools Participate in Virtual Manufacturing Day
- ▶ Mach Medical and Sites Medical Open New Headquarters
- ▶ Ohki Alley Construction Concludes and Mural Fest Paints the Alley
- ▶ Leadership Whitley County Celebrates 20 Year Anniversary



Schools watch a video from Whitley EDC for a virtual Manufacturing Day 2020.



Leadership Whitley County celebrates the program's 20 year anniversary.



The public gathers for Whitko Career Academy's Open House.



A mural painted in Ohki Alley by artist Shawn Dunwoody adds finishing touches to the space.

Investment Campaigns Aims to Enhance Whitley County

At Whitley EDC we are inviting investment from forward-thinking private sectors to compromise a majority of our budget. We are an efficient organization that successfully competes with a smaller budget. With your partnership, we can provide more for local businesses and our community.

The Whitley EDC currently depends primarily on the support from the municipalities, local government and designated grants to help fund Whitley EDC programs.

We're changing that. Your investment is critical and communicates your company's commitment to joining forces to help enhance Whitley County's businesses, talent and quality of life.

As a nonprofit organization diversifying our funding portfolio is crucial to success. In the past five years, the Whitley EDC team has helped bring investments of **\$156.4 Million** to the county, promised **596 quality jobs** and **led quality of place campaigns in each of our communities**. We know we can do even more with you investing in our work.

WHITLEY EDC PROGRAMMING

Whitley EDC serves as the single point of contact for existing and prospective industries. Whitley EDC facilitates business development services customized to meet the needs of our clients. Some of those services include:

- ▶ Business coaching for start-up and established businesses
- ▶ Building and site identification and evaluation
- ▶ Community and labor force analysis
- ▶ Facilitate grants and crowdfunding for community development
- ▶ Incentives negotiation and management
- ▶ Leadership training and development through the Leadership Whitley County Program
- ▶ Marketing on behalf of your business
- ▶ Ombudsman to government agencies
- ▶ Service provider referrals
- ▶ Training and workforce development support



Whitley County C&A Tool uses leading machines and technology.

Whitley EDC Board of Directors

Brooks Langeloh, Chair — Orizon Real Estate — Realtor Representative

Jim Argerbright, Vice Chair — Town of Larwill Representative

David Smith, Treasurer — Star Financial Bank — Financial Representative

Lisa Smith, Secretary — Ivy Tech Community College — City of Columbia City Representative

Trey Weber — Crossroads Bank — Town of South Whitley Representative

Eric Jung — Northeastern REMC - Utilities Representative

Rob Marr — C&A Tool, Town of Churubusco Representative

Bill Overdeer — County Council, Whitley County Representative

Brandon Penrod — Superintendent - Whitko Community Schools

Dale Buuck — Whitley County Economic Development Corporation (Ex—officio member)

John Lefever — NEIRP Board Representative (Ex—officio member)

Matt Shipman — Bloom Gates Shipman & Whiteleather - Attorney Representative
(Ex—officio member)

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