

DEKALB COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP
YOUR OPPORTUNITY | OUR PRIORITY

ASHLEY | AUBURN | BUTLER | CORUNNA | GARRETT | HAMILTON | ST. JOE | WATERLOO

Annual Report

2020



BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

The board gratefully acknowledges the DeKalb County Commissioners, the DeKalb County Council, Mayor Mike Ley (Auburn), Mayor Mike Hartman (Butler), Mayor Todd Fandt (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 PLAN

Our focus is to strategize and plan by creating measurable goals.

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



OUR FUTURE

We serve as a catalyst in driving economic development by leading and initiating analyses of DeKalb County.

- DeKalb County Housing Strategy
- DeKalb County Broadband Strategy

KEY ACTIVITIES

Collaboration & Networking

Economic Growth - working with organizations/entities:

- Cities - Towns - County
- Indiana and Regional economic development agencies
- SBDC - OCRA - WorkOne
- Brokers - Utilities - Site Selectors
- Auburn Main Street
- Butler Main Street
- Ivy Tech - Fort Wayne
- Trine University - Angola
- Purdue University - Fort Wayne

Industrial Attraction

Leads & Submittals -- Local, State, Regional, Broker, Utility

Consultation & Service

- Tax Phase-ins
- Resolution Preparations
- Abatement Calculations
- TIF Infrastructure
- Social Economic Demographic Dissemination

Workforce Development

- Northeast Indiana Works
- Launch DeKalb Partner

Education & Information

- Five-County Economic Development Forum
- Wage & Benefit Survey
- Social Media & Website

Business Expansion & Retention

- Program Connections & Alignment

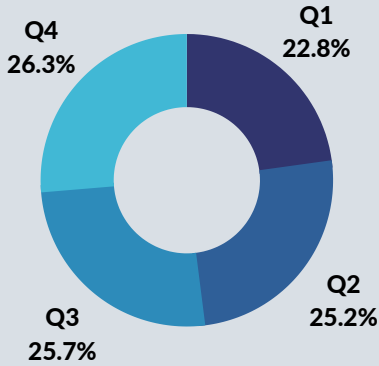


"It's a great community to work in," King said about DeKalb County. "We're headed in the right direction."

In support of:

- DeKalb Promise
- DeKalb LEADS
- DeKalb Chamber Partnership
- Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership
- LEDO Council
- Elevate Northeast Indiana
- Fortitude Fund
- Auburn Main Street
- Butler Main Street
- Northeast Indiana Works

SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYTICS

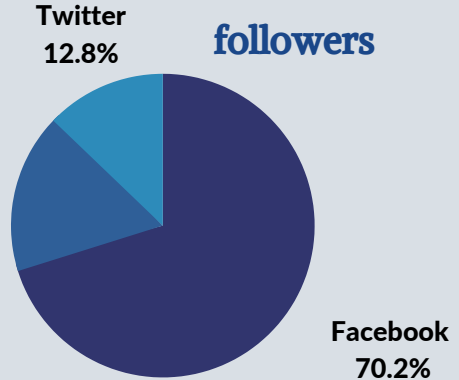


of Tweets: 83
Impressions: 19,178

of Updates: 84

Page Likes: 1,026

LinkedIn
17%



DEKALB COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECEIVES AWARD



Executive Director of DeKalb County Economic Development, Anton King, receives the Young Professional of the Year Award at the 2020 Duesy Awards Ceremony (Bri Sprunger, DeKalb Chamber Partnership board president presented the award.)

OUR KEY PARTNERS

incentive consultation · expansions · relocations · investment · solutions



Ashley · Auburn · Butler · Corunna · Garrett · Hamilton · St. Joe
Waterloo · DeKalb County

OPPORTUNITY ZONE



Projects were selected:

- Housing, Mixed-Use Apartments, Retail
- Industrial, Warehousing, Logistics

In 2020 the DCEDP worked with our local taskforce, OCRA, and Purdue Center for Regional Development on creating a prospectus to market.



Proposed: Downtown Mixed-Use- Apartments & Retail- Commercial/Residential



Proposed: Garrett Industrial Park North- Industrial, Warehousing and/or Logistics

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY NEWS

COVINGTON
BOX & PACKAGING, INC.



Covington Box & Packaging, located in Waterloo selected as Northeast Indiana Manufacturer of the Year. Pictured (L-R): Tony Fifer (President of Covington Box), John Sampson (President, CEO Northeast Regional Partnership.)



Pictured (left): TrueCore Project (Waterloo) progress as of 2020 Q4.

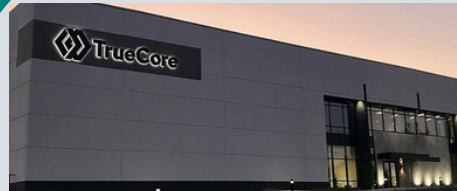


Credent Wealth

Capital Investment: \$6,600,000

New Jobs: 15

(Project Announced)



TrueCore

Capital Investment: \$28,511,000

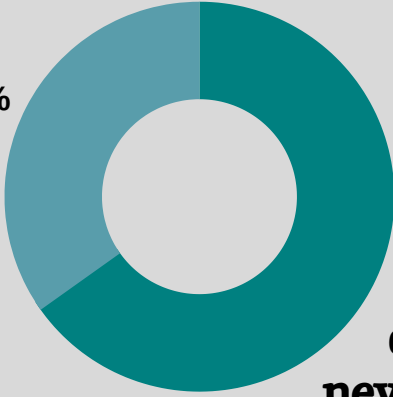
Pledged Jobs: 75

(Project Announced)

2020 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

expansions

34.9%



65.1%

new businesses

total investment
\$145,670,398

jobs

1,593

retained

163 company
contacts/visits

leads
received

103

jobs pledged

475

leads worked

74

43
deals
won

Average Wage

\$47,840

*of new pledged jobs
(annually)*

\$53,808

median income

ANNOUNCEMENTS

expansions



new



- Cupbearer Café
- Gaviotas



INVESTMENTS

DeKalb County industries and business showed resilience in working through the pandemic.

- Internally recorded \$94.6 million of new businesses/industries. An \$84.8 million increase from the previous year.
- \$50.6 million investment in expansions of businesses/industries.

2020 EVENTS



Bee Well Nutrition opening west-side of Auburn (June).



Local efforts were made at the beginning of the pandemic to create a database showing businesses open during pandemic.



DeKalb Humane Shelter started construction October for their new facility.

- Auburn, IN (DeKalb County, IN) ranks T-5th in top US Micropolitan Areas via Site Selection Magazine
- Garrett Construction Trades teacher, Chad Sutton, won Teacher Excellence Prize from Harbor Freight
- Kruse Center, Innovative Workforce & Career Development Academy announced opening
- DeKalb Molded Plastics was awarded MFG Readiness Grant from IEDC
- Garrett High School students built welcome sign for City of Garrett
- DeKalb County gaining talent to area, 0.6% population increases from 2019



Pictured: Covington Box & Town of Waterloo officials at installation of solar panels outside their factory in Waterloo.

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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