

STARKE COUNTY SPOTLIGHT



"Creating Opportunities... Delivering On Promises"
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Diane Thalmann Assumes Presidency of Foundation Board

Takes the Reins of SCEDF



Diane Thalmann

Economic
Development Manager



The Starke County Economic Development Foundation (SCEDF) conducted their annual meeting recently and at that time elected new leadership for the upcoming year. Diane Thalmann, who has served on the Foundation Board since 2006 as a Representative Member was elected President, after serving for several years as Vice-President. She also has previously served as the chair of the Marketing Committee for the Foundation, and was instrumental in helping launch the current website while serving in that capacity.

Diane has been a member of the NIPSCO Economic Development team since 1998, traveling across most of Northern Indiana in that capacity, with a focus on prospective businesses, local economic development organizations, and industrial realtors. (continued next page)

Foundation Executive Director Joins Indiana Economic Development Association Board

Weaver Takes on Additional Duties

Charles W. Weaver, Executive Director of SCEDF since August of 2005 has accepted a position on the Board of Directors of the Indiana Economic Development Association, a state-wide organization, effective as of January of 2014. He will continue as a member of the Indiana Economic Development Foundation Board as well. IEDA was created in 1968 to provide continuity to a statewide community development effort. It has evolved into an educational organization actively involved in influencing legislation and policies.



Weaver also continues to serve on the Northwest Indiana Forum Managing Board, its Executive Committee and as Chair of its Economic Development Committee.



Charles W. Weaver
Executive Director



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Starke County Plant Manager Serving as Chairman of the Northwest Indiana Workforce Board

Adam Collins of Kruz, Inc.

The Northwest Indiana Workforce Board (NWIWB) is a board of business, education, labor, community, faith-based, and economic development leaders responsible for the strategic vision of workforce development and governance of WorkOne in Northwest Indiana. They are also responsible for managing connections to key resources in the workforce and education arena as well as supporting efforts on programming that plant and nurture the seed of entrepreneurship. The board works to determine current and future skill needs together with economic developers, employers, and economists. Board members represent the counties of Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, and Starke.

Adam Collins, Plant Manager at Kruz, Inc., in Knox, Indiana since March of 2007 is serving as chair of the board for the current year. Prior to assuming his responsibilities at Kruz, Collins was a Project Manager and Team Leader at MPI International, also located in Knox. He holds an Associate's Degree from both Vincennes University and Purdue University-North Central, as well as a Bachelor's Degree from Purdue University-North Central. Collins is also active in assisting the Starke County Economic Development Foundation and the Starke County Initiative for Lifelong Learning (SCILL) in developing workforce skills of Starke County residents.

Collins was appointed to the NWIWB by the Starke County Commissioners.

Diane Thalmann *(Continued from previous page)*

She also assists with the Indiana Economic Development Corporation to help facilitate economic growth in NIPSCO's service territory. She is also currently serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Indiana Economic Development Association.

Diane has spent seventeen years in manufacturing, including positions in marketing, engineering and business development. She holds an MBA from the University of Notre Dame; an EET from Purdue University North Central; and a BSPE from Valparaiso University.

Diane succeeds Bill Sonnemaker in this capacity. Bill is a retired facilities manager for Lockheed Martin who has relocated to Starke County following his retirement. Bill served as President of the Foundation for the last 6 years.

Joining Diane in leadership positions will be Larry Wickert as Vice-President, Jim Wagner as Secretary, and Carla Musial as Treasurer.



UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| March 13, 2014 | Launch Your Own Business –
Regional Development Center in Valparaiso, Indiana from 6:00 – 8:00 pm |
| March 20, 2014 | Veteran Business Workshop -
6260 Central Avenue in Portage from 8:30 am – 10:30 am |



Adam Collins

Plant Manager

