

# Directory of Society Members



**IVY TECH**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
NORTHWEST

---

GERALD I. LAMKIN INNOVATION  
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER

**Joe Bavuso**

Class of: 2016 – 2017

Union Safety Representative

U.S. Steel

Gary

Joe Bavuso, Union Safety Representative, United States Steel, Gary Works, helped launch a training class for crane Maintenance Technicians in the steel industry. This program was instituted to train Technicians to safely repair cranes that operate 60 feet in the air. This is commonly known as the Herb Tollman Trainer, named after a crane repairman who died working on a crane. Joe and others were successful in launching the program in 2008. The trainer has been utilized to train hundreds of technicians nationwide. During 2015, Joe received the Crane Innovator of the Year Award by the Association of Iron & Steel Technology. "He saved lives by reducing hazards that cause fatalities," said nominator O'Merrial Butchee.

**Gordon Biffle, Jr.**

Class of: 2016 - 2017

Big Daddy's BBQ

Gary & Hammond

Gordon Biffle Jr. launched his nationally recognized "Big Daddy's BBQ" in a Gary flea market. Now he's almost a legend receiving letters from people telling him how his story "has changed their lives." He's been in national media, including TV personality Steve Harvey who presented him a Neighborhood Award selected by viewers. He started selling his unique flavored BBQ dinners from home, then took it to a flea market. In 2009, he left his job of 15 years and opened his location in Gary. His Hammond location opened in 2012. "The world benefits from Gordon's story," said Darquia Biffle, his partner and nominator.

**Charlie Blum**

Class of: 2016 - 2017

President & CEO

Star Productions

Merrillville

Charlie Blum, President and CEO, Star Productions has successfully bridged two worlds by bringing together professional performers with student and community artists on stage. He has employed his connections with professional concert venues, Broadway and National Touring groups and linked "regular folk" with these professional entertainers. "There is a risk in blending professionals with dreamers and he has done this consistently and successfully," said Jared Riddle, an amateur singer/entertainer and Chair at Ivy Tech Community College. Jared nominated the 30-year veteran.

**Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins**

Superintendent

Michigan City Area Schools

Michigan City

Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins, Superintendent, Michigan City Area Schools, championed transformation by overcoming "missed opportunities" and demonstrating an innovative spirit of collaboration involving the community, county and school system. Among other initiatives, she launched the first NIPSCO Energy Academy; the first STEM public elementary school, and the first

12/9/2016

construction technology program in Indiana leading to apprenticeships. She is now overseeing a district-wide \$10 million technology/digital classroom initiative. She was inducted in 2013.

**Ralph Gee**

Class of: 2016 - 2017

Math Teacher

Michigan City Area High School

Ralph Gee, Engineering Technology teacher at MCAS, is helping lead a cultural shift toward innovation. He merges scientific problem-solving and community service while fostering a culture of entrepreneurship among students. He coached the robotics team to a FIRST state championship. "Students research, problem-solve, learn by doing and learn by re-doing," said nominator Betsy Kokn. He and his robotics students also researched, then created a new "sensory" classroom for special needs students. Last year, he led a team of MCAS students selected for microgravity testing in Oregon as part of the NASA CELERE Research Challenge.

**Diego Gonzalez**

Class of: 2016 – 2017

Artist

Airbrush Monsters, Hobart

From murals at Lake Station High School to state-of-the art designs in high fashion magazines, Diego Gonzalez is a homegrown prodigy in the forefront of transforming body painting as a self-taught airbrush artist. A 4<sup>th</sup> grader who walked miles in winter to attend the first after-school scholarship class of South Shore Arts, Diego today does cutting edge "Body Art" spray-painting of models at the top of Trump Tower in Chicago. This Hobart resident works in the fashion industry with his company, Airbrush Monsters, and sells his art globally, said Nominator John Cain. This pioneer in cyber art reminds people to "follow your dreams and don't give up."

**Jon Groth**

Class of 2016 – 2017 – Fellow

Area Director/Principal

Porter County Career and Technical Education

Valparaiso

Jon Groth, area director/principal, Porter County Career and Technical Education, Valparaiso, led the innovative repurposing of an historic 1912 Grand Truck Rail Depot into a 21<sup>st</sup> Century classroom. John worked with community leaders and volunteers to raise funds and relocate the historic building during July, 2014. Students are helping to convert the 3200 square foot structure. Jon also launched the first student-built alternative energy demonstration project on a school roof in Indiana.

**Debra Howe, Ph.D.**

Class of: 2016 – 2017

Superintendent

Tri-Creek School Corporation

Lowell

Dr. Debra Howe, superintendent, Tri-Creek School Corp., launched a 290 solar panel pilot designed by students in a Project Based Learning (PBL) Curriculum. Construction will begin in 2017 with thousands of

12/9/2016

panels to significantly reduce the electrical costs of the district. Since 2011, she led Tri-Creek to be one of the first to broadly implement a PBL curriculum which integrates technology, collaboration, and real-world learning increasing STEM opportunities. Another innovation greatly reduced its expulsion rates by creating alternative opportunities. Results include a 15% increase in graduation rates reaching 99.3% in 2015. She was nominated by Frank Szczepanski.

**Lynne Jordan**

Class of: 2016 – 2017

Founder of Living Hope Ministries & STRIPES

Valparaiso

Lynne Jordan, founder of Living Hope Ministries, launched STRIPES as a rug weaver and advocate to fight sex trafficking. She created 300 rugs in the past 2 years from thrown away clothes to raise funds. “Through creativity, stained and damaged clothing that basically had no value is restored to something of beauty,” Lynne said. The registered nurse and former Ivy Tech instructor utilizes social media to raise awareness of “modern day slavery.” Like a rug re-invented from cast off clothes, survivors can re-invent themselves and bring renewed value to their lives, said nominator Deanna Ehrhardt.

**Chancellor Thomas L. Keon, Ph.D.**

Class of: 2016 – 2017 - Finalist

Purdue University Northwest

Hammond & Westville

Chancellor Thomas L. Keon, Ph.D., launched one of the first models in the nation leading to the unification of two campuses into a single university called Purdue University Northwest. This is the first in Indiana and one of a handful of unifications of this nature in the nation involving innovative educational mergers. This creates more choices for students through a unified curricula, promotes a regional identity, and creates a stronger university as a “cornerstone” for economic development in Northwest Indiana.

**Patti Komara**

Class of: 2016 – 2017

President, Patti’s All-American

& Owner Tumblebear Connection

Dyer

Patti Komara, president, Patti’s All-American and owner of Tumblebear Connection, Dyer, has pioneered best practices to promote the sport and strengthen the gymnastics industry. Recently, she created an employee handbook and an operations manual listing all duties pertinent to running a gymnastics school. Gyms across the country and some foreign gyms use these guides as models. Moreover, this national speaker shared best practices at various functions for this 5,000 gym industry, including the USA Gymnastics Congress. She was nominated by Bernadette Lopez.

**Elizabeth Lynn, Ph.D.**

Class of: 2016 – 2017 - Fellow

Center for Civic Reflection

Valparaiso University

Elizabeth Lynn, Ph.D., Valparaiso University, founded the Center for Civic Reflection, a national center that developed and refined an innovative applied use of the humanities to illustrate issues of concern through reflective dialogue. Civic reflection uses readings, images and videos to engage people in productive conversation about their communities. The Center has trained more than 7,000 facilitators and led more than 20,000 people in public, community and workplace dialogues. The center is part of The Institute for Leadership and Service.

**Sheena Marrell**

Class of: 2016 – 2017

Sewist, RLM Tissue Bank Prosthetics

Valparaiso

Suggesting and leading the design of a new product line at RLM Tissue Bank Prosthetics, Valparaiso, RLM sewist Sheena Marrell saw excess sawdust from the manufacturing process. She envisioned a new product for the transplant industry that provides human tissues for the living. The sawdust was placed in small packets within anatomical spaces of the deceased donor as a crematory friendly solution. A new product line distributes approximately 2,000 units per month, said founder Richard Marrell.

**Mark Mabrito, Ph.D.**

Class of: 2016 - 2017

Professor of English

Purdue University Northwest

Hammond & Westville

Dr. Mark Mabrito, associate professor of English and Director, Computer Labs & Computer Supported Writing, created and implemented the Online Certification in Writing for interactive media at Purdue University Northwest. Nearly a decade ahead of his time, Prof. Mabrito recognized the importance of preparing individuals to meet the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace in the social media space. This aims to help bridge the gap of in terms of available programs to teach effective and socially responsible practices, said nominator Karen Bishop Morris.

**Sandra Chimon-Peszek Rogers, Ph.D.**

Class of: 2016 – 2017 – Fellow

Director Biophysical Chemistry Department

Calumet College of Saint Joseph

Hammond

Sandra Chimon-Peszek Rogers, Ph.D., Director of the Calumet College of St. Joseph Biophysical Chemistry Department and a researcher into Alzheimer's disease, launched an innovative curriculum that combines lectures with hands-on lab work that especially helps struggling students. They win awards even when competing with students from larger universities, and it has led to the selection by NASA for a 30-day experiment on the International Space Station.

**Mayor Joseph Stahura**

Class of: 2016 – 2017 – Fellow

12/9/2016

## City of Whiting

Mayor Joseph Stahura of Whiting transformed a “sleepy company town” into an evolving “21<sup>st</sup> century destination.” This shift had its roots in the 2004 tax crisis that led to an innovative entrepreneurial culture that reinvigorated the community. These actions led to multi-million investments that included lakefront beautification, revitalized downtown, and the National Mascot Hall of Fame. He and his team created a new mindset in the face of a changing tax structure that shook NWI communities to their core! He was inducted in 2011.

### **Kathy Sipple**

Class of: 2016 - 2017

Chief Enlightenment Officer

CoThrive

Valparaiso

To foster innovation through ideas, Kathy Sipple, chief enlightenment officer, CoThrive, Valparaiso, launched a time bank. This is consistent with CoThrive’s mission of creating an online community that cultivates learning and member support. Her time bank creates a system of trading skills and talent for time. With many skilled and talented people with good ideas, time banking creates the opportunity “to trade that which you know for that which you do not know,” said William Halliar, who nominated her. “Time banking enables skill sharing within a community,” said Richard Marrell, also a nominator.

### **Dwayne Walker**

Class of: 2016 – 2017

Chicagoland Popcorn

Merrillville

Dwayne Walker, President & CEO of Chicagoland Popcorn is achieving “star” status for his business acumen and as a celebrity impersonator of the late Muhammad Ali. The retired group president for Illinois Tool Works is attempting to “shake up the world” with his skills as a designer popcorn maker by offering a growing 250 flavors of popcorn. “Everyone knows about flavors like caramel and cheese popcorn, but he offers hot wing, crab legs, and other flavors,” said nominator O’Merrial Butchee. Dwayne is part owner with his Mogda, his wife. He aspires to “help others uncover and maximize their gifts and talents.”

### **Pam Wheelock**

Class of: 2016 – 2017

Founder and President

Purrfectplay

Chesterton

Pam Wheelock, founder and president, Purrfectplay, creates, produces and distributes, worldwide, the first and only organic and die free pet toys. Her toys are produced in Chesterton employing part-time employees. The natural hemp and die free colored cotton products are marketed via the internet to customers around the world at [info.purrfectplay.com](mailto:info.purrfectplay.com). or at [www.youtube.com/user/Purrfectplay](http://www.youtube.com/user/Purrfectplay). She gives 5% of every sale to no-kill animal shelters.

**Adam Woolever**

Class of: 2016 – 2017

Teacher

Paul Saylor Elementary School

Valparaiso

Adam Woolever, teacher, Paul Saylor Elementary School, Valparaiso, not only integrates technology into his classroom. But he shared new technology and applications with staff on "... how easy it is migrate technology into a lesson," said Principal Jack Zack, who nominated Adam. In fact, he has become the tech support for staff. Adam's benefactors are of course, students, but also staff and teachers who benefit from expanding their vision of tools to help support learning.

**Teams****ArcelorMittal Advanced High Strength Steel Development Team**

Class of: 2016 – 2017

ArcelorMittal Global R & D Center

East Chicago

An ArcelorMittal Advanced High Strength Steel Development Team from ArcelorMittal USA plants accelerated product development and plant trail cycle times for third generation advanced high strength steels. Representing Operations, Technology, Quality and Research Departments, their multi-discipline approach reduced the production cycle from 2.5 years to 4 months, said David Price, Group Manager. "Their interactive approach allowed this team to overcome obstacles encountered in steel product manufacturing," said nominator David White. This cross functional team won the top Global ArcelorMittal Performance Excellence Award.

**Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts**

Class of: 2016 – 2017 - Finalist

Artspace Projects, Inc.

Michigan City

Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts in Michigan City is the first project in Indiana and a model for the nation with 44 live/work lofts for low income artists and their families to anchor and revitalize the downtown. This involved the transformation of the 1908 Warren Building, a beloved but deteriorating 7-story building. With ownership transferred to Artspace Projects Inc., this non-profit uses innovative tools to create affordable places for artists to support healthy communities.

12/9/2016

### **aqUV Purification System Team**

Class of: 2016 – 2017

College of Engineering, Valparaiso University

The aqUV Purification System, Valparaiso University, College of Engineering was co-founded by Dr. Daniel Blood, associate professor, VU. He helped launch this water purification system to support his mission work in Haiti. Called aqUV Purification System, this uses UVC light to kill bacteria and viruses. The system also includes wireless charging. The goal is to empower Haitians with training and tools to manufacturer aqUV bottles on location, said nominator Gregory Duncan, Ph.D. A local fabricator provided a solar-powered 3D printer to make the bottles. Proceeds in the U.S. help support providing the components. His co-founders include Erica Gonzaga and Dr. Rob Damitz, Ph.D.

### **Center for Community Philanthropy, Porter County Community Foundation**

Class of: 2016 – 2017

Valparaiso

Thanks to the vision of the Porter County Community Foundation, an aging building has been transformed into a hub for nonprofit activity. Today, the new Center for Community Philanthropy is an environmentally sustainable community resource. Thanks to this philanthropically funded project, this new center serves as the Foundation's administrative offices, and is home to a nonprofit conference center. Here Porter County nonprofits have access to quality, free meeting space. Also, a variety of educational and professional development opportunities are available. The center was also designed to curate the role of philanthropy and inspire future residents to invest in their community.

### **Commercialization and Manufacturing Excellence Center (CMEC)**

Class of: 2016 – 2017

College of Technology

Purdue University Northwest

The Commercialization and Manufacturing Excellence Center (CMEC) of Purdue University Northwest is a new model for our region that combines a commercialization space with a manufacturing center in Hammond. Executive Director Niaz Latif said the center: 1) serves as a catalyst for economic development and tech transfer across NWI; 2) provides advanced manufacturing opportunities and training for manufacturing; and 3) enables faculty experts and students to help business bring new ideas to market. It is also home for WJOB, which provides internships to students.

### **Community Civility Counts**

Class of: 2016 – 2017

Gary Chamber of Commerce with The Times Media Company

Gary

Inspired by the Gary Chamber of Commerce and its Public Policy Committee, a campaign called "Community Civility Counts" has sparked an unlikely revival of civil discourse and good behavior in an often contentious society. From public classrooms to Pierogi Fest, from the Indianapolis statehouse to

12/9/2016



Africa and beyond, this model launched by Chuck Hughes with Dr. Gordon E. Bradshaw has caught fire! Invaluable and ongoing support has come from The Times led by Bob Heisse, resulting in this award-winning campaign receiving the Associated Press Media Editors Innovator of the Year Award. So mark your calendars for World Civility Day next April 13th!

### **Construction Safety Institute, Construction Advancement Foundation (CAF)**

Class of: 2016 – 2017

Portage

Conceived 15 years ago, the Construction Safety Institute was launched by the Construction Advancement Foundation as a new and innovative safety training center. It is designed and constructed to give construction workers a hands-on approach to jobsite safety. The building incorporates a scaffold tower, underground storage tank, and a variety of safety equipment which allow for the safe simulation of actual safety hazards that workers will encounter on construction sites. The building was built to help the NWI construction industry achieve the bold goal of zero accidents, said nominator Kevin Comerford, Director, Professional Development.

### **Dental Home Health, Compton & Broomhead Dental Center**

Class of: 2016 – 2017

Munster

Like other dentists, Compton and Broomhead provides traditional services. But it also serves patients in the home. Thanks to founder Dr. George Compton, it's been doing this for six decades! His son Dr. Eric Compton saw the growing need and then introduced Dental Home Health. Dental care is delivered to residences, assisted living and nursing homes, said Janna Allen, director. "That Janna's Dad started this in 1957 shows he was thinking outside the box," said nominator Michelle Golden. Patients include those with ALS, spinal cord injuries, MS, paralysis, OCD, Alzheimers and dementia, and autism.

### **Dwyer Instruments**

Class of: 2016 - 2017

SMART Air Hood Balancing Instrument - Finalist

Michigan City

Dwyer Instruments in Michigan City designs and manufactures innovative controls, sensors and instrumentation solutions holding 650 patents. In July, Dwyer ushered in a new era of test equipment with its "revolutionary" air flow hood, the SMART Air Hood™ Balancing Instrument. This allows technicians to work with twice the accuracy in half the time. The unit features *Predictive Balancing*, an industry first for air flow balancing. The handheld PredictAir™ Application Software includes algorithms for best-in-class accuracy.

### **Dunes Learning Center**

Class of: 2016 – 2017

Porter, IN

12/9/2016

With a 63-acre campus located inside the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Dunes Learning Center is one of less than 20 residential environmental learning centers and is the only one in Indiana with a formal relationship with the National Park Service. Founded in 1998 by Lee Botts, Mark Reshkin, Ph.D., and other volunteers, this organization connected in 2016 with more than 100,000 youth and adults with learning opportunities through customized environmental curricula to inspire curiosity and stewardship of our natural resources.

#### **Gary Community School Corporation Bead Town for Students**

Class of: 2016 - 2017

Gary Community School Corporation

Gary

Dr. Cheryl Pruitt, Gary Superintendent, had the vision to invite Bead Town founder Stephan Wagner to create a curriculum around the Bead Town experience at the Gary Area Career Center. Students became artisans and learned the basics of entrepreneurship and leadership while creating art recycling old beads and other products. Student pieces were put on display, which engaged the community and benefited youth outside the traditional classroom, said nominator Brandon Griffin. Students experienced this renowned traveling exhibit that features nearly 100 mosaics, all made from Mardi Gras beads and other objects highlighting iconic images that promote a new way of learning.

#### **Grand Calumet River Partners In Restoration**

Class of: 2016 – 2017 – Chanute Prize for Team Innovation

Indianapolis

Demonstrating an innovative collaboration involving eight companies working with regulatory agencies, **The Grand Calumet River Restoration project** transformed the Grand Calumet River with more than 80 percent of the river “coming alive again” over the past decade. Once called the most polluted river in the world, this massive cleanup grew out of the 2004 Grand Cal Consent Decree, which represented the second largest multi-party action of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process in history.

#### **JT Shrimp LLC**

Class of: 2016 – 2017

Scott & Leslie Tysen

Wheatfield

Scott & Leslie Tysen founded JT Shrimp LLC, a family-owned shrimp farm in Wheatfield named after their daughter Julia. It uses a unique recirculating water aquaculture system that produces zero wastewater. The Tysens have a zero exchange aerobic heterotrophic system to raise the “freshest saltwater shrimp in the area.” This system makes the water as close as possible to a shrimp’s natural habitat, minus all the pollutants. No hormones, chemicals or antibiotics are added making their shrimp healthier and more sustainable, said nominator Daniel Plath.

#### **Michigan City Chamber Music Festival**

Class of: 2016 – 2017

12/9/2016

Nic & Sunny Orbovich  
Michigan City

Nic and Sunny Orbovich launched the Michigan City Chamber Music Festival, a unique event in our region which is celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> season in 2016. The respective artistic director and education director head a 501 © (3) team. The festival is the first of its kind in Northwest Indiana. This yearly event attracts Emmy, Grammy and Gramophone Magazine award winning soloists from across the nation. It began when the founders wanted to share their love of music with Michigan City, said nominator William Halliar.

### **Miller Beach Arts & Creative District**

Class of: 2016 – 2017  
Miller Beach

Founded just a little over five years ago, the Miller Beach Arts & Creative District is using art as a catalyst in the regeneration of its community with the hope to improve the local economy, attracting new investments and businesses, providing unique educational and entertainment opportunities, and improving the livability of the neighborhood. Since the district's inception in 2011, 12 new businesses have opened, property values have increased, and the quality of life has improved. The MBACD is creating a dynamic hub of creative cultural and economic development as a vital part of Gary, said nominator O'Merrial Butchee.

### **Opportunity Enterprises Curriculum Department**

Class of: 2016 – 2017  
Opportunity Enterprises  
Valparaiso

At Opportunity Enterprises in Valparaiso, Marie Kubina and her team in the Curriculum Department have created innovative programs for adults with disabilities. She began by first observing client's needs and reactions. For example, she observed that clients were often extremely engaged when observing themselves on film. Now clients teach other clients sign language by video taping themselves. Now she has developed a curricula for four different day programs customized to each population's needs. This approach has raised the standard for curriculum-based programming in consistency and quality. These programs improve the quality of life of hundreds of individuals in need of education.

### **Pratt Paper Mill**

Class of: 2016 – 2017  
Valparaiso, IN

Pratt Paper Mill in Valparaiso is the newest and most cost competitive paper mill in the container industry in North America. This innovative \$260 million state-of-the-art facility is a 100 percent recycled paper facility. By the official opening this past March, Pratt which employs 120 people, was producing at more than 90 percent capacity, making it the best startup in Pratt history. Since 2000, Pratt has invested more than \$500 million in Valparaiso, the site of the world's largest corrugated box plant adjacent to the

12/9/2016

company's fourth U.S. paper mill.

**“Shifting Sands – On the Path to Sustainability”**

Class of: 2016 – 2017 – Finalist

Lee Botts, Green Heron Productions with Pat Wisniewski, FOR GOODNESS SAKE PRODUCTS, LLC  
Miller

“Shifting Sands – On the Path to Sustainability” is an innovative documentary with an educational focus that traces the epic story of collision between industrial and environmental interests transforming into today's collaboration among industry, regulatory agencies, communities and environmental groups. Now shown nationwide, the documentary was the brainchild of environmentalist Lee Botts, assisted by producers Pat Wisniewski, Rana Segal, and Tom Desch.

**Urschel Laboratories, Inc.**

Class of: 2016 – 2017 – Accelerating Greatness Award for Team Innovation  
Chesterton

Built on a foundation of engineering marvels and innovations in making industrial cutting machinery for 106 years, **Urschel Laboratories Inc.** has pioneered a transformation in technology and created an entrepreneurial culture among its 400 employees that have made it the global leader in food cutting technology. Now owned by employees and combined with a new \$100 million 350,000 square foot manufacturing facility and headquarters, this company is positioned to enhance its global leadership over the next century!

**Trail Creek Watershed Partnership**

Class of: 2016 – 2017

Michigan City

The Trail Creek Watershed Partnership is a unique partnership to reduce the negative impacts on the watershed through cooperation across multiple organizations. Through education, grants and a cost-sharing program, individuals and organizations began to apply “best management practices.” Included were planting cover crops, building bioswales, rain gardens, installing a permanent animal manure diversion system. Nearly 5,000 elementary and high school students had hands-on experiences. Funding came from a \$160,000 grant that was matched by another \$110,000, making this the first time this many partners came together for this purpose. The Unity Foundation of La Porte County is the founder of the unique partnership to benefit Lake Michigan. .

**TW Electronic Recycling, TradeWinds Services Inc.**

Class of: 2016 – 2017

Merrillville

**TradeWinds is one of two disability organizations in Indiana certified as part of the CyclePoint National Electronic Recycling Network. In compliance with the highest level of international recycling standards, 12/9/2016**

**TradeWinds has recycled 94,248 pounds of e-waste since September 2015. It is the only national CyclePoint Network Partner for Electronic Recycling in the northern half of the state. "We've made an environmental impact by preventing e-waste from being sent to landfills," said Helen Rutkowski, Industries/Pre-Voc Services Director. TW was nominated by Larry Alt.**

**Erin Argyilan, Ph.D.**

Class of 2015 – 2016 - Fellow

Associate Professor of Geoscience

Indiana University Northwest – Gary

Dr. Erin Argyilan, Ph.D. a geologist at Indiana University Northwest, pioneered a new model of a previously unknown geological hazard. Her discovery resulted from nearly a year of research into why 6-year old Nathan Woessner fell into a hole on Mount Baldy in 2013. Researchers dismissed her idea that buried trees could sustain cavities in dunes following decay. By challenging the status quo, she is building and shaping a new science for the dunes.

**Marilyn Brunk,**

Class of: 2015 – 2016 - Fellow

Math Teacher

Griffith High School - Griffith

Math teacher Marilyn Brunk launched the first high school class in Northwest Indiana, and likely one of the first in Indiana, to teach computer science and programming through video games. This Griffith teacher started with 20 students last year, and now has 90 students signed up for this year. A former mountain climber, Mrs. Brunk broke her back eight years ago, and nearly gave up teaching. Instead, her resilience is preparing students for tech jobs.

**Tom Clark**

Class of: 2015 – 2016 - Fellow

U.S. History Teacher

Lake Central High School – St. John

12/9/2016

Launched 30 years ago by Lake Central teacher Tom Clark, the Gold Star Honor Roll Project is among the longest running experiential learning projects in Indiana and one of the largest in the nation. This involves over 5000 students killed in Viet Nam and other U.S. Wars. The project has been featured in the Wall Street Journal, CBS Evening News, and other media highlighting Clark's unique approach to bringing history alive.

### **Joseph Coar**

Class of: 2015 – 2016 - Fellow

Former Vice President, Tonn & Blank - Michigan City

To ensure a future workforce, Joseph Coar, former vice president, Tonn and Blank Construction, championed a Carpenter's Apprentice Program that put Indiana in the forefront of innovative curricula for high school students. This led to A.K. Smith in La Porte to be the first career center to offer this program in our state. Students successfully completing the course are eligible for direct entry into the four-year Carpentry apprenticeship. Coar is a self-taught, apprentice-educated visionary who is preparing the next generation for their futures.

### **Joseph Ferrandino, Ph.D.**

Class of: 2015 – 2016 - Fellow

Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice

School of Public and Environmental Affairs

Indiana University Northwest- Gary

Joseph A. Ferrandino, Ph.D. associate professor of criminal justice at Indiana University Northwest, founded and launched the Northwest Indiana Public Safety Data Consortium, described as "literally transforming how public safety communicates in the region." This innovation is not just mapping crimes, but connecting data and information among 25 participating agencies across four counties.

### **Don Galbreath**

Class of: 2015 – 2016 - Fellow

12/9/2016

Former President & Advisor

Galbreath Inc. - Winamac

12/9/2016

Starting in his father's blacksmith shop in Winamac, Don Galbreath, began working on farm equipment and ended up being an innovator in the waste-handling industry over the past 60 years. He is nationally known for inventing "the most user friendly roll-off hoist in the industry." The majority of roll-off hoists used in the waste, scrap and construction hauling industries were influenced by his inventions.

**Paul Leon Wolek, Jr.**

Class of: 2015 - 2016

Founder, Leon's Triathlon

Hammond

Finalist Candidate for Fellow

Paul Leon Wolek Jr. (Leon) founded and produced Leon's Triathlon over a 32-year span. Leon developed and hosted the first ever standup paddleboard division in a sanctioned triathlon in 2013. During 2015, he hosted the first U.S. Armed Forces National Championship Triathlon held off a military base. He also launched the prestigious Amateur National Championship for triathlons. Leon is a pioneer who helped bring this California sport to the Midwest.

**Kyle Ayling**

Class of: 2015 – 2016

Founder, Cloud 9

Finalist Candidate for Fellow

Kyle Ayling of Dyer, skateboarding since he was 11, developed and marketed a less abrasive but "super grippy" griptape – the tape skaters use to maintain their footing. To market his product designed for less wear and tear on shoes, he skateboarded across Indiana into Ohio - twice. This 24-year old entrepreneur started selling his products out of his car. Today, using social media, "Cloud 9" has evolved into a lifestyle brand for apparel that sells globally.

**Kathleen Gibson**

12/9/2016



Class of: 2015 – 2016

Founder & CEO

Adjunct Professor Link (APL) – Valparaiso

Launched by CEO and Founder Kathleen Gibson, Adjunct Professor Link (APL) is the first digital marketplace to connect, train and certify experts who would like to become adjunct professors for college students. Experts register on the site for free and college and university department chairs/program directors search the database for experts using criteria specific to hiring insights. This is changing how colleges and universities attract talent.

### **Jeff Brown**

Class of: 2015 - 2016

Assistant Professor

School of Music

Valparaiso University – Valparaiso

Founder and jazz musician Jeff Brown of the Valparaiso University Jazz Festival broke new ground 30 years ago by launching a social and educational collaboration involving high school jazz players and professional musicians at the college level. He changed the format to a “group social interaction model.” This encouraged active participation among students in all aspects of jazz through public performances, jam sessions, observation, and chance encounters.

### **Keith Kirkpatrick**

Class of: 2015 - 2016

Advisory & Founder

South Shore Leadership Center - Valparaiso

Keith Kirkpatrick, a founding Board Governor with The Society, has been synonymous with innovative leadership in Indiana for over 20 years. He is founder of The South Shore Leadership Center (SSLC) which

12/9/2016

runs two community leadership training programs that involve over 90 adult leaders each year. Meanwhile, he launched a 7-county youth program inducted last year called South Shore Leadership Youth for Community Engagement (SLYCE).

### **Agri-Therm Team**

Class of: 2015 – 2016

Melba and the late Jim Shilling - Knox

Founded by Melba and Jim Shilling of Knox, Agri-Therm developed a probe and cable system to detect temperature in grain bins. They also developed a stainless steel probe to measure the temperature of the grain, and manufactured “bin-holes” to be installed in the side of the bins. The Shillings also developed several different handles for “private label” products.

### **Edgewater Behavioral Health Services – Rapid Access Center Team**

Class of: 2015 – 2016 – Accelerating Greatness Co-Recipient

Gary

Edgewater Behavioral Health Services, Gary, is the first in the state to develop a new model to serve people in psychiatric crisis. The Rapid Access Center provides immediate access for adults experiencing a behavioral health crisis. This includes conditions for individuals unable to be managed on an outpatient basis and in need of medication evaluation and/or those experiencing substance abuse issues. The aim is to reduce inappropriate admissions to ER's and provide people without regard to pay a needed service.

### **The Caring Place, Caring Designs Team**

Class of 2015 – 2016

Valparaiso

The Caring Place launched an innovative solution called Caring Designs to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in aiding their transition by decorating and equipping their apartments. Launched by Margy Boyce, Caring Designs has decorated and equipped over 52 homes for women and children serving 125 individuals. Also, sales and expenses are being met each month to sustain the upscale furniture showroom. No other shelter in the state or country has replicated this thanks to this outstanding team!

### **IU Health La Porte Hospital Team**

Class of: 2013 – 2014 – Chanute Prize Co-Recipient

La Porte

To strengthen a “fair and just” culture where employees are encouraged to report problems, IU Health La Porte Hospital leveraged the tools of LEAN Six Sigma that include launching Rapid Improvement Events. These initiatives incorporate skilled teams, including physicians, who spend a full week focusing on a single opportunity for improvement. Solutions are tested and implemented within 30 days, and are

12/9/2016

designed to establish a culture of continuous improvement by focusing on processes rather than blame. The hospital is a 2013 – 2014 Society Team Member.

### **Prompt Ambulance Team**

Class of 2015 – 2016

Highland

Prompt Ambulance is the first ambulance company in the nation to partner with a university in a unique internship program for social workers. Prompt Ambulance, Indiana University, and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) have created this partnership. As a result, students have been awarded over 5000 hours of continuing education. Additionally, for the past three years, social work students have spent a year with Prompt and their partners.

### **Methodist Hospitals, Northlake Campus**

Class of: 2015 – 2016 – Accelerating Greatness Co-Recipient

Gary

Methodist Hospitals' Northlake Campus has been designated as the first Level III "in process" trauma center in Northwest Indiana and the 16<sup>th</sup> in the state. To achieve this designation, a skilled team led by Reuben Rutland, M.D., Trauma Medical Director and Jennifer Mullen, RN, Methodist Trauma Program Coordinator, with data coordinator Latasha Taylor transformed care by reducing the door-to-operating-room-times to 1 hour for trauma patients needing "emergent" surgical intervention.

### **Methodist Hospitals Infection Control Team**

Class of: 2015 – 2016

Gary

The Infection Control Team at Methodist Hospitals is responsible for monitoring and reducing rates of infection at Methodist Hospitals. The innovation is in the use of a device called the SwabCap Disinfection Cap used on patients with IV catheters. The cap helps disinfect IV lines before nurses use them to administer fluids. This resulted in a 45% overall drop in infections for all patients. This research was in the Summer 2014 issue of the Journal of the Association for Vascular Access (JAVA) showing substantial improvements in patient safety.

### **Porter- Starke Services Team**

Class of: 2015 – 2016

Valparaiso

Porter-Starke Services of Valparaiso is the first community mental health center in the nation to utilize the ongoing "This I Believe" essay-writing process popularized by Edward R. Murrow as part of its outreach. The centerpiece is creating "The Inspiration Project" through its annual community symposium. This annual event featured essays and a training seminar for those interested in using the "This I believe" process. Porter-Starke has been honored by the American Psychological Association for

12/9/2016

adopting this unique outreach that has featured essays from ordinary citizens to wives of Presidents since 1951.

### **Plum Grove Music Team**

Class of: 2015 – 2016

Lowell

Plum Grove Music was recently honored as one of the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) top 100 musical instrument and product retailers in the world. "From its inception, Plum Grove was built differently than the traditional start-up business", said founder Rick Thacker, who makes and sells his own violins. Starting in a small basement room, Plum Grove now has a staff of 23 employees and over 350 students with hundreds of rentals in 9 states and 4 foreign countries.

### **TedX Organizing Committee Team – Member**

Class of: 2015 – 2016

Crown Point

The TedX Organizing Committee is a group of young professionals who launched the first TEDX County Line Road in Northwest Indiana. This half-day event curated by a group of young professionals last November connected the region directly with TED, a global brand. The goal: Bring together bright minds to give talks from a variety of speakers that are idea-focused and provoke conversations about “dreaming big” about Northwest Indiana. A second TedX conference is planned for November 12, 2015.

### **Green Abilities Team**

Class of: 2015 – 2016 – Chanute Prize Recipient

The Arc Northwest Indiana

Highland

12/9/2016

The Green Abilities team at The ARC Northwest Indiana, Highland, has expanded an onsite training program to teach special needs individuals how to recycle granite remnants into pavers, veneers and other repurposed products. In implementing this hands-on, zero-waste, granite recycling training program, this special needs facility is providing an exclusive store to exhibit and sell granite products. This model is being duplicated at other locations in the US to divert millions of pounds of granite remnants from landfills and create jobs.

### **The Brady Stick Team**

Class of: 2015 – 2016

Winamac

Developed by U.S. Air Force veteran and Pulaski County Commissioner Larry Brady and his brother Dr. Garry Brady, the “Brady Stick” is a patented pelvic alignment device that will allow the owner to align his or her own pelvis. This eliminates the need to see a medical provider on a regular basis. Equipped with a provisional and utility patent, the prototype is made of PVC tubing but can be made of any material.

### **Purdue Calumet Water Institute Team**

Class of: 2015 – 2016

Purdue University Calumet

The Purdue Calumet Water Institute is dedicated to advancing Northwest Indiana through the use of water as a catalyst for economic development. Among its inventions is a sensor technology now patented for the continuous monitoring of ammonia in water. This will allow water- treatment plant operators to be instantly alerted at any remote location of ammonia detected in fresh water supplies, rather than having to gather and test samples in the lab.

## **Purdue Cal Business Advising Team**

Class of: 2015 – 2016

Purdue University Calumet

Advisors Anna Kent and Samantha Horn serve more than 1100 undergraduate students in all majors in the College of Business. Typically, advisors may see 350 students per advisor; these advisors see nearly 50% more than number. How? Associate Dean Lori Feldman tells us they initiated walk-in hours and WebEX advising to reach more students and serve them more efficiently. They're demonstrating how technology combined with skilled counseling can transform a field.

## **The Energy Academy**

Class of: 2015 – 2016

La Porte County Career and Technical Education

La Porte

This first Energy Academy in Indiana is a partnership between NIPSCO, the La Porte County Career and Technical Education and Michigan City Area Schools. This program is in response to meeting the employment needs of NIPSCO and other energy sectors. In developing the curriculum, the first Energy Pathway was created in Indiana to prepare students for careers in electrical, energy, and utility industries. This February this academy won a \$235,000 innovative grant.

Scott Albanese

Class of: 2014 - 2015

Fellow

Founder & President,

Albanese Confectionery Group

Hobart

Scott Albanese, Founder & CEO, Albanese Confectionery Group, Inc., pioneered the first gummies in the world with a distinguishable flavor - a feat previously deemed impossible. The

12/9/2016



former bricklayer started his business 30 years ago with \$10,000. Today the company is over \$100 million in sales. Albanese products can be found nationwide and in 9 countries.

Chris Birky

Class of: 2014- 2015

Member

Birky Family Farms & Country Gourmet

Kouts

Chris Birky is an inventor, farmer and entrepreneur who invented the patented Binwacker Bulk Bin Agitation System recognized as one of the top farm products in the industry for maintaining the “flow-ability” of feed in a feed bin. His business model includes two stand-alone restaurants, country market and bakery, and catering service which help provide jobs in south Porter and Starke Counties. He credits his success to his family and his faith.

Kenneth J. Brock, Ph.D.

Class of: 2014 - 2015

Member

Indiana University Northwest (ret.)

Gary

Ken Brock, Ph.D. a nationally recognized authority on birds of Indiana, solved the problem of when birds arrive and depart by creating a “migration envelope” based on observational data of hundreds of birders and thousands of birds. His creative invention increases the probability of seeing the birds during migration. His efforts spurred a tourism boost among birders!

Robert Colangelo

Class of: 2014 - 2015

Fellow

President/Founding Farmer

Green Sense Farms, LLC

Portage

12/9/2016

Robert Colangelo is founding farmer of Green Sense Farms, the largest indoor commercial vertical farm and largest user of Phillips LED grow lights. Green Sense Farms grow leafy greens in a sanitary, controlled indoor environment free of pesticides, herbicides, and GMO seeds and distributes them locally throughout the Midwest.

Gary Johnson  
Class of: 2014 - 2015  
Member  
President  
Mortar Net Solutions  
Burns Harbor

Faced with the patent expiration of a legendary product in the masonry products industry, Gary Johnson rebranded Mortar Net Solutions and led a transformation of organization culture to see challenge in new ways, leading to new solutions. Also, he led 4 inventions for which the company is seeking patent protection. In 2014, he was inducted into the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers for improving quartz crystals.

Gregory C. Koons  
Class of: 2014 - 2015  
Member  
Founder, Livoid Smartphone Development  
Hobart

Gregory Koons developed iSouthshore smartphone application that provides schedule information for South Shore trains and real time information about service interruptions, station closings and other information. Greg is employed as an IOS engineer for a Fortune 500 company but continues to work on other apps. His part-time business is Livoid Smartphone Development.

Mark Murphy  
Class of: 2014 - 2015  
Member  
Director of Operations  
Lake County Community Corrections  
Crown Point

12/9/2016

Mark Murphy founded what is now “Positive Impact” in 1992 as Director of Operations for Lake County Community Corrections. Formerly called “Project Impact,” he realized there was a need to have a support group run by ex-offenders but moderated by staff. Pastor Lee Gilliam of New Second Baptist Church shown on the right, an ex-offender who served as president, travels throughout the U.S. to educate and implement this model at other agencies.

William E. Nangle

Class of: 2014 - 2015

Gerald I. Lamkin Fellow

Executive Editor Emeritus (Ret.)

The Times of Northwest Indiana

Munster

William E. Nangle, Executive Editor (Ret.), The Times Media Company, helped transform The Times into a national model for journalism, launching the “Munster Model” renowned for providing in-depth local and neighborhood news while covering regional news. He also brought Indiana’s 7 largest newspapers together, producing a statewide audit of access to public records resulting in sweeping changes.

Dushan Nikolovski

Class of: 2014 - 2015

Member

Director

Center for Entrepreneurship Success

Purdue University Calumet

Dushan Nikolovski, Director, Center for Environmental Success, Purdue University Calumet, launched the “Big Sell,” so that budding entrepreneurs have a platform to pitch their ideas, get immediate feedback from the public, and other entrepreneurs via electronic clickers, and receive expert advice to avoid pitfalls of a typical startup. The Big Sell is the only competition of its kind.

Caroline Olah

Class of: 2014 - 2015

Member

12/9/2016

Inventor/Creator/President  
Little Viper  
Hebron

Caroline Olah invented the world's first and only fashion pepper spray self-defense bracelet to save lives. She sketched the designs, researched manufacturers, assembled products and marketed pink and black models. She was also featured on the Steve Harvey Show in April and on NBC Chicago morning news in August. She not only brought the invention to the marketplace, but does her own marketing and PR work.

Jim Paglia  
Class of: 2014 - 2015  
Member  
President/CEO  
In's & Out's, LLC

Jim Paglia, a brand strategist in Chesterton whose clients have included IBM, Disney and Cisco Systems, brings his philosophy of "thinking differently" to local organizations. These include the Wheeler Girls Soccer Team and the award-winning DECA Marketing Team of the Porter County Career and Technical Center. Whether helping a teen learn the mechanics of kicking a ball or helping DECA win championships, his approach is to help others discover the solutions themselves.

Neeti Parashar, Ph.D.  
Class of: 2014 - 2015  
Fellow  
Professor, High Energy Physics  
Purdue University Calumet

Neeti Parashar, Ph.D., put Northwest Indiana on the world map of global scientific discovery by leading a federally funded Purdue University Calumet High Energy Physics Team as part of a huge global effort in an historic initiative to discover the elusive Higgs-Boson subatomic particle that gave the 2013 Nobel Prize to Peter Higgs of the United Kingdom and Francois Englert of Belgium.

12/9/2016

Robert Palumbo, Ph.D.  
Class of: 2014 - 2015  
Fellow  
Alfred W. Sieving Chair of Engineering  
2013 Indiana Professor of the Year  
College of Engineering, Valparaiso University

Robert Palumbo, Ph.D., professor and Alfred W. Sieving Chair of Engineering, nurtured his dream to inspire The College of Engineering, Valparaiso University, to build the nation's 5th solar furnace where undergraduate students can explore new ideas in solar research. He is now part of a "pioneering" team at the James S. Markiewicz Solar Energy Research Facility. He was inducted in 2007.

William Pauley  
Class of: 2014 - 2015  
Member  
Engineer (ret.), USS Steel Gary Works  
Valparaiso

Bill Pauley launched an enhanced 911 signage system that expedites the reporting of an emergency from a victim or observer through Porter County 911 Services. With the Indiana Dunes State Park, Bill developed "location addresses," and using numbering signs he had designed and manufactured, he placed them at key locations. GPS technology was used to enter these locations into the 911 system. Over 350 GPS enhanced 911 signs have been adapted by over 25 venues in Porter County. Porter County Commissioners underwrote the cost of the signs.

Roger Pradhan, Ph.D.  
Class of: 2014 - 2015  
Fellow  
Principal Research Engineer (Ret.)  
ArcelorMittal Global Research and Development Center, East Chicago

Roger Pradhan, Ph.D., was key to the development of new carbon steel products for the automotive industry, and the leading developer and implementer of bake-hardenable steels. Called a pioneer by his colleagues, he received an AISI Gold Medal for his paper describing his implementation of bake-hardenable steels at Burns Harbor and holds four patents.

Barbara Eason-Watkins, Ph.D.

Class of: 2014 – 2015

Member

Superintendent

Michigan City Area Schools

Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins of the Michigan City Area Schools is building upon success of a district in transformation. Initiatives she started since becoming superintendent include establishing Indiana's first STEM public elementary school, renewing emphasis on core instruction, offering choice options for parents, and partnering with business and higher ed to improve students' college and career readiness. This turnaround has resulted in a five-fold increase in high school test scores. She was inducted in 2013.

W. F. (Bill) Wellman

Class of: 2014 - 2015

Member

Founder, T.A.P.S. of America

Senior Vice President

Whiteco

W.F. (Bill) Wellman, 90, a World War II Marine Corps veteran commercialized a patent pending digitalized automatic version of the famous Taps bugle call to honor the sacrifices of America's veterans for use at dusk at war memorials, cemeteries, and communities. He was inspired by his experiences on a hospital ship upon his return from Okinawa in 1945 in which he participated in burial-at-sea-ceremonies for 14 Marines in which Taps was played. He was inducted in 2006.

Norma Serrano Williams

Class of: 2014 – 2015

Member

Excellence By Design, Paint Contractors

Hebron

Norma Serrano Williams is owner of Excellence by Design. She employs an all-woman crew. She purposely hires and mentors women who are going through tough times and have no experience. She has hired and trained more than two dozen women, some of whom have gone on to start their own companies. Last year, she partnered with the Boys and Girls Club of Hammond to mentor young women.

12/9/2016

## Teams

Association of Beverly Shores Residents Environment Committee/Team

Class of: 2014 – 2015

Member

Beverly Shores

Led by Beverly Shores residents Alan and Rosemary Bell, this community launched a grassroots campaign over 5 ½ years to curb all sources of light pollution involving town government and community association, businesses and individual residents. This community became an exemplary model of a community working together. This led to Beverly Shores being named an International Dark Sky Community - the 7<sup>th</sup> in the world.

BP Whiting Refinery Modernization Project Team

Class of: 2014 - 2015

Chanute Prize Co-Recipient

Whiting

The BP “One Global Team” for The Whiting Refinery Modernization Project (WRMP) utilized a single team concept on a world scale to conduct the largest and most complex refining construction project in BP history while establishing a new era in safety with no days away from work for 40 million hours! This project involved unprecedented logistics and transportation coordination.

Davis/Lee Hangar Team

Member

Class of: 2014 - 2015

Gary/Chicago International Airport

Gary

The Gary Jet Center and the LEE Companies combined expertise and existing materials in new and different ways to create an “elegant solution” to building an award-winning 40,000 ft. state-of-the-art corporate Hanger III at the Gary/Chicago International Airport. This is one of only four civilian hangers in the world to be awarded LEED Gold Certification by the U.S. Green

12/9/2016

Building Council. The design and construction lessened the impact on the environment using existing and practical applications in new and different ways.

Everglades of the North Team Documentary & Curriculum Team

Class of: 2014 - 2015

Member

Valparaiso

The Everglades of the North Documentary & Curriculum Team created a path-breaking documentary and curriculum guide called “Everglades of the North: The Story of the Grand Kankakee Marsh.” Reaching national audiences, it is described as the first to “aggregate the stories and history” of the Kankakee marsh. Introduced at the Field Museum in Chicago, the documentary has been seen by an estimated 1 million people.

JD Marshall Preserve Site Team

Class of: 2014 – 2015

Member

Indiana Dunes State Park

The JD Marshall Preserve Site is the first underwater preserve in Indiana and it is found off the shores of the Indiana Dunes State Park. Started in 2009, the goal of the project was to manage this historic underwater site through a collaborative approach. In designating this site, this helps ensure that it persists for future generations. The ship sank with four lives lost on June 11, 1911. The site was dedicated Sept. 30, 2013.

Lake County Court Tattoo Removal Program Team

Class of: 2014 – 2015

Member

Lake County Superior Juvenile Court

Crown Point

The Lake County Superior Juvenile Court launched the Lake County Court Tattoo Removal Program to give teens and adults with ill-advised tattoos a “second chance” through laser

12/9/2016



removal. In cooperation with artist Don Frey and Bugaboo Tattoo, the court is offering the service free to teens up to age 18. After assuming duties in Juvenile Court, Judge Thomas Stefaniak Jr., thought it beneficial to help youth remove poor body art decisions that might affect their future.

Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) Team

Class of: 2014 – 2015

Accelerating Greatness for Team Innovation Co-Recipient

Crown Point

The Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) is providing nearly \$30 million annually in a proven collaborative model to leverage “failing assets” into more than \$1 billion in growth-oriented infrastructure and economic development that is creating 5000 jobs and capitalizes on our unique location next to Chicago.

Northwest Indiana Coincident Index Team

Class of: 2014 – 2015

Member

Indiana University Northwest

Gary

The Northwest Indiana Coincident Index has been published every month in The Times to provide data for local economic planning. The index has two components. The NWI Coincident Index provides a monthly snapshot of the regional economy, and the Leading Index predicts how the economy performs in the next six months. The NWI Coincident Index has been modeled after state and national coincident indices.

PCL Alverno Team

Class of: 2014 – 2015

Chanute Prize for Team Innovation Co-Recipient

Franciscan Alliance/Presence Health

Hammond

12/9/2016

PCL Alverno introduced to the nation total microbiology automation revolutionizing the delivery of results to patients and physicians. PLC Alverno is the first to be designated as a Siemen's Microbiology Innovation Center in the U.S. Alverno's milestone is the latest at this lab that practices the "lean" philosophy of Kaizen, which adapts processes to changing customer requirements.

Port of Indiana, Burns Harbor Team

Class of: 2014 – 2015

Member

Burns Harbor

The Port of Indiana-Burns Harbor operates as part of a statewide innovative model that has allowed it to flourish without the need for ongoing public tax dollar support. The first port to be developed in Indiana, and most successful, it opened in 1970 and is part of the Ports of Indiana Team that has implemented an entrepreneurial focus similar to many private businesses, and is unique among regional port and transportation authorities.

READY NWI Team

Class of: 2014 – 2015

Member

Valparaiso

READY NWI is a unique grassroots business/education partnership underway to align k-12 schools and post-secondary education with the business community of Northwest Indiana by building skills through credentialing, career planning, dual credit and other measures to better prepare students for employment opportunities. This initiative aspires to bring these practices "to scale" beyond pockets of innovation among schools across the 7-counties of NWI.

SLYCE

Class of: 2014 – 2015

Member

A project of South Shore Leadership Center

Valparaiso

The South Shore Leadership Center has launched a unique 7-county youth leadership initiative called SLYCE – The South Shore Leadership Youth for Community Engagement. SLYCE is aimed at empowering participants to be “change agents” and “servant leaders” preparing them for civic involvement in their communities. Now in its second year, the program draws on 52 high school students primarily in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades from 25 different high schools.

The James S. Markiewicz Solar Energy Research Facility  
Class of: 2014 – 2015  
Accelerating Greatness Award for Team Innovation Co-Recipient  
College of Engineering, Valparaiso University

The James S. Markiewicz Solar Energy Research Facility houses the 5<sup>th</sup> solar furnace in the United States and the world’s only solar furnace primarily designed, built and used by undergraduate students at Valparaiso University, College of Engineering. At this state-of-the-art research facility, VU students work with faculty in high temperature solar thermal electrochemistry experiments to create new fuels and commodities harnessing the power of the sun.

Thermo Products Design Engineering Development Team  
Class of: 2014 – 2015  
Member  
Thermo Products, Inc.  
North Judson

Engineers at Thermo Products Inc., North Judson, applied an existing technology in a new way to create an ultra-high efficiency oil-fired furnace. The result is greater safety, with fewer emissions for 7.7 million homes that rely upon oil heat furnaces in the U.S. The existing technology is an “eductor” draft mechanism. However, its application to oil-fired residential heating furnaces is new, resulting in an ultra-high efficiency furnace.

**Julie Bombacino**  
Class of: 2013-2014  
Fellow  
President, Just Food Blends  
Chesterton

12/9/2016

Julie Bombacino, president, Just Food Blends, Chesterton, is the first to launch a new line of “blended real food meals” for tube-fed people. There are no ready-to-serve shelf-stable real food meal options for tube-fed children and adults, who rely upon a formula that typically is 50% corn syrup. She was inspired by her son, AJ, and his condition. Estimates indicate nearly 1 million tube-fed people in the U.S.

### **Mike Falk**

Class of: 2013-2014

Fellow

PE/LS/ CEO & president, Falk PLI Engineering and Surveying  
Portage

Mike Falk, PE, LS, CEO & president, Falk PLI Engineering and Surveying, Portage, is the first to introduce advanced surveying instruments called laser trackers and laser scanners in the global steel industry in NWI and beyond. He introduced a faster, more accurate technology from the space and automotive industries that helps steel companies optimize performance, ensure alignment, and improve safety.

### **Nina M. Fonstein**

Class of: 2013-2014

Fellow

Ph.D.,

Nina M. Fonstein, Ph.D., a retired scientist and now consultant, is a world-recognized expert in the development of the “new steels” that are stronger, lighter and more environmentally friendly for ArcelorMittal Global Research and Development Center, East Chicago. This former technical manager published the first book in the world on dual-phase steels.

### **Micky Gallas**

Class of: 2013-2014

Owner, Micky Gallas Properties, Tip Tee Toe Golf Shoes  
Long Beach

Micky Gallas, owner of Micky Gallas Properties and CEO, Tip Tee Toe Golf Shoes, Long Beach, invented and commercialized the first and only wedge sole golf shoe for women. The shoe is patented and “USGA confirming.” Equipped with a higher heel, this is the only legal wearable training aid that improves the player’s balance, weight transfer and “allows the player to make a strong athletic move on the ball.”

### **Lisa Hopp**

Class of: 2013-2014

Fellow

12/9/2016

Ph.D. FN FAAN, Purdue University Calumet  
Hammond

Lisa Hopp, Ph.D., RN FAAN, Purdue University Calumet, is founding director of the Indiana Center for Evidenced-Based Nursing Practice (ICEBNP), the first in the Midwest as part of a global effort to encourage 'best available evidence' in nursing. To improve patient outcomes in area hospitals, she launched the "Evidence Implementation Fellowship" involving nursing teams to encourage best practices in 2012.

### **Don Keller**

Class of: 2013-2014  
Fellow  
president and CEO, Tri-State Industries  
Hammond

Don Keller, president and CEO of Tri-State Industries, Hammond, is the first in Northwest Indiana and the Chicagoland area to launch an integrated system to sell refurbished robots. This pioneer in "lean manufacturing" also provides cells for robotic welders, programming and training for operators. Tri-State Automation is designed as a "one-stop shop" to give small manufacturers a competitive edge.

### **Stewart McMillan**

Class of: 2013-2014  
president, Task Force Tips  
Valparaiso

Stewart McMillan, president, Task Force Tips, Valparaiso, led a transformation in product development by using technology in a new way to involve more employees and distributors globally. He realized sustainability depended upon strategically involving the entire organization rather than relying upon a few individuals for ideas. TFT is an innovative leader in water flow equipment worldwide. Stewart sponsored our 19th Innovators Café.

### **Adela Ortega**

Class of: 2013-2014  
president, Professional Locomotive Services  
East Chicago

Adela Ortega, President, Professional Locomotive Services, East Chicago established the first independent and privately owned customized locomotive manufacturing and repair facility in NWI in which she initiated spur line connectivity with Canadian National. Her company is the first woman-owned independent repair service for locomotives in Canada, Mexico and the U.S.

12/9/2016

**Kathleen Kane**

Class of: 2013-2014

Director of Food Service Operations,  
Michigan City

Kathleen Kane led the introduction of a Styro Genie that converts styrofoam lunch trays into pavers at Lake Hills Elementary Stem School. A second Genie will be at Pine Elementary School for the Visual and Performing Arts. Estimates are that both Genies will recycle at least 135,000 foam trays totaling about 1200 cubic feet, which would look like 60 twin size mattresses stacked atop one another. Michigan City Area Schools is the first to have this innovative technology in Indiana.

**Chris Mahlmann**

Class of: 2013-2014

President & Founder, Ideas in Motion

Launching his “goofy idea” for good news media 4 years ago, he has created four online news networks that celebrate positive news in Porter, LaPorte and Lake Counties. His model is spreading to the South Bend market and beyond in 2014. An awards recognition program, the “Good Life Awards” is held annually, and the company has published 35,000 articles, 650 videos, 225,000 photos and content from 2600 contributors. He started the company above his garage with 3 staff members and now employs 26 people.

**Mayor Keith Soderquist**

Class of: 2013-2014

Mayor, City of Lake Station  
Lake Station

he championed the new Lake Station City Hall. It is the only non-park local government building in Indiana DESIGNED to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED Gold certification. The building utilizes a variety of renewable energy sources, including a roof-mounted solar array, geothermal energy and three wind turbines. There are only 5 LEED certified buildings in Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties.

**Michelle Robinson**

Class of: 2013-2014

Founder, YoUnique Yoga  
Scherverville

offers free weekly yoga classes to victims of domestic abuse at St. Jude’s House “on location.” These free classes offer both mental and physical benefits to adults of St. Jude’s. She also offers weekly yoga

12/9/2016

classes to the children present at the shelter. If patrons donate a mat for use by those at St. Jude's, she offers a free class. Soon, she will offer "GIRL's ROCK YOGA," dedicated to enhancing girls' lives through yoga.

**Joshua Deboer**

Class of: 2013-2014  
Tech Team 911

This young man at age 16 is a high school graduate, business owner and now a \$90,000 Westwood Scholarship recipient who has launched a computer repair and service company called Tech Team 911. His parents allowed him to purchase an "old retired White Sox" ambulance and stock it with emergency supplies to fix computers. He has differentiated himself through a clever marketing campaign in a very busy field of computer repairs.

**Dr. Barbara Eason**

Class of: 2013-2014  
Superintendent, Michigan City Area Schools  
Michigan City

To revitalize and differentiate Michigan City Area Schools, Dr. Eason-Watkins launched an area-wide feeder system to prepare students for jobs in Science, Technology, Engineering and math. She established Indiana's only public STEM magnet school, Lake Hills Elementary; created themed middle schools in STEM and Environmental Science; and developed high school and career/tech STEM pathways. Just recently, Krueger Middle School received the Indiana Governors Award for Environmental Education for its "Science in the Sun" Outdoor Learning Center. She was named superintendent in 2010 after serving as chief education officer of the Chicago Public Schools.

**Barb Tracy**

Class of: 2013-2014  
Owner, Marilyn's Bakery

As owner with her husband Robert Eustace, Barb has led Marilyn's Bakery to be acclaimed for producing 65,000 pies a year, while championing locally produced seasonal foods. The bakery is a second generation business located next to a third generation market that both grew out of an existing 5th generation farm. She champions her mother Marilyn's legacy of farm values and applies them in a new way in a 21st century model. Barb sponsored our 18th Innovators Café.

**Bonnie Trout**

12/9/2016

Class of: 2013-2014  
European Market  
Chesterton

To solve the problem of a “quiet downtown” on Saturdays, Bonnie pioneered the European Market in Chesterton. This is the first French Market-inspired market in Northwest Indiana based upon the historic French Market in Paris. It was initially modeled after a market in Wheaton launched by French entrepreneurs. When talks broke down, she launched a new model with lots of help. This grew from 23 vendors to today, 190 vendors. The European Market is promoted on billboards on I-80-94.

### **Lana Zimmer**

Class of: 2013-2014  
Ph. D., The Hoophouse Farming Eduventure

Launched by Dr. Lana Zimmer at Saint Joseph’s College, the Hoophouse Farming Eduventure is a collaboration in organic hoophouse farming. It is one of three projects funded in 2012 by the Ball Foundation Venture Fund, providing seed money for start-up creative and innovative programs among independent colleges in Indiana. This is the first sustainable agriculture program of its kind at a liberal arts college in the region.

### **Nature in My Neighborhood Team**

Class of: 2013-2014  
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore  
Gary  
Finalist Candidate for the Chanute Prize

This is the first of 401 national parks to launch a “Nature in My Neighborhood” program that features a free Nature Play Zone to reach youth in urban communities. Located at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education in Gary, these initiatives also utilized the park’s new distance learning platform to target new audiences.

### **Kemin/Lambert Spearmint Team**

Class of: 2013-2014  
Kemin Food Technologies, Inc. & Ed Lambert Jr., Lambert Bros., LLC  
Starke County  
Co-Recipient of the Chanute Prize

This team uses innovative growing and post-harvest processes for patented spearmint varieties unique to Starke County. This specialty crop produces an all-natural extract that has both flavoring and



antioxidant properties effective in delaying lipid oxidation, color loss and deterioration in human food, animal food and other products for global markets.

### **2020 Vision: From Diesel to Natural Gas Team**

Class of: 2013-2014

Ozinga Ready Mix Concrete, Inc.

Chanute Prize Finalist

Ozinga Ready Mix Concrete, Mokena, IL, with its Indiana Division in Gary – This company is the first in the Midwest and one of the first in the U.S. to transition its 500 concrete mixers and support vehicles from diesel to natural gas (CNG). With plans to complete the transition by 2020, Ozinga introduced the first CNG front discharge ready mix truck in the world at its Gary offices, said Tim Ozinga, Director of Communications, Ozinga Bros., Inc.

### **Take 5 for Life**

Class of: 2013-2014

Community Healthcare System and Community Hospital Fitness Pointe

Chanute Prize Finalist

Take 5 for Life is an elementary school program that targets the rise in childhood obesity in disadvantaged neighborhoods exacerbated by declining fitness programs. This program emphasizes “movement” and nutrition by training teachers to increase activity and wellness in the classroom. An estimated 5,000 children and families have benefited.

### **Tuskegee Airmen, EAA Young Eagles Program at the Gary/Chicago International Airport Team**

Class of: 2013-2014

Chicago DODO Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

Co-Recipient of the Chanute Prize

This provides the first and only monthly Young Eagles Aviation Program in the United States affiliated with the Experimental Aviation Association offering free flights at the Gary/Chicago International Airport to perpetuate the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. Some 14,000 youth have participated in this initiative that started at Meigs Field in 1994.

### **The Homelessness Prevention Internship Team**

Class of: 2013-2014

Ivy Tech NW, IUN & Creation Men’s Center

12/9/2016

Donald Spears of Ivy Tech Northwest launched an Associates-level human services internship program that coordinates efforts for dual-level internships to provide services for local homeless men, and a learning environment for students. This involves interns and faculty from Ivy Tech and IUN, along with staff of New Creation Men's Center for homeless men. It teams up two educational institutions, a local non-profit, and small resale shop.

### **Lake County Community Transition Court**

Class of: 2013-2014

One of 8 reentry courts in Indiana, this court is unique in that it modifies the individual's Department of Corrections' placement into the Lake County Community Corrections Program 8 to 12 months prior to their earliest possible release. This modification allows for strict supervision through an in-court process. Modifying sentences to devote more time to transition and integration into society differentiates this court, said Judge Salvador Vasquez.

### **Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail Team**

Class of: 2013-2014

Indiana Dunes Tourism

Indiana Dunes Tourism worked with 60 site owners and others to create a "discovery trail" across Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Jasper, Newton and Pulaski Counties. It also threads all of the cities and towns of Porter County together. By taking historical and natural assets and linking them by themes, it promotes the overall trail system and includes an improvement plan for each site. This is the only nature-based trail site in Indiana, said Lorelei Weimer, executive director.

### **GLC NASA – ARISS Contact Experience Team ok**

Class of: 2013-2014

Gary Literacy Coalition, Inc.

Gary

Linking Gary students to the International Space Station, the Gary Literacy Coalition worked with an amateur radio team to let students speak directly to astronauts on May 8, 2012. At 2:35 p.m., this team - which stands for Amateur Radio on the International Space Station - made history when the first contact experience took place between students in an urban school district and the Space Station! The idea of including elementary, middle and high school students was also a "first" involving 4 schools, said Era Twyman, executive director.

### **Dunes Creek Daylighting Team**

12/9/2016

Class of: 2013-2014  
Indiana Dunes State Park

At the Indiana Dunes State Park, a project that began in 2005 re-created a stream that had been channeled into a culvert pipe years ago. Called “Daylighting,” this is the first project of its kind in Indiana and among the first in the nation. To restore this creek covered by an auxiliary parking lot that was badly deteriorating, the second phase of this \$1.4 million project was completed in 2011, said Brandt Baughman, property director. Now it’s a shining example of innovative teamwork!

### **Quality Patient Safety Strategic Initiative Team**

Class of: 2013-2014  
Indiana University Health LaPorte Hospital

This hospital has received national acclaim for its “fair and just culture” that has led to fixing safety problems before they arise. Shifting from a “blame culture,” its executive team embraced a creative and innovative climate that involves all 1800 employees emphasizing trust, agreeable disagreement, and idea generation. The results include being named one of 66 “safety superstars” in the U. S., and raising net revenue from \$135 million to \$235 million, said G. Thor Thordarson, President.

### **South Shore Clean Cities**

Class of: 2013-2014  
South Shore Clean Cities

South Shore Clean Cities received the highest honor given to over 100 Clean Cities Coalition by the U.S. Department of Energy in 2012 following a reduction of fuel consumption by over 11,167,105 gasoline gallon equivalents. This contributed to an 87,123 ton reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The SSCC Team is led by Carl and Lorrie Lisek, the only husband and wife team among these coalitions in the U.S. Lorrie, who serves as President of Legacy Environmental, is Executive Director for Wisconsin Clean Cities.

### **South Shore Civil War Memorial Trail Team**

Class of: 2013-2014  
South Shore Convention & Visitors Authority

The Trail uses technology to reclaim the lost legacy of those from our region who served during the Civil War. This web-based trail is a partnership between the South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority and the Calumet Region Civil War Preservation Project led by Marc Chase of The Times. It brings together the cemeteries, monuments and architectural icons related to these veterans, combined with displays at the Indiana Welcome Center, said Speros Batistatos, president and CEO. This initiative has led to the replacement of over 80 headstones of Civil War Veterans across Northwest Indiana.

12/9/2016

### **Porter County Veterans Treatment Court**

Class of: 2013-2014

Porter County PACT, Inc.

This is the first Veterans Treatment Court in Indiana by offering a non-traditional approach to law-violating behavior of veterans. This court is designed specifically to serve justice involving veterans whose behavior is connected to military service. The program was developed due to the increasing number of veterans in Porter County. Judge Julia Jent, who operates this program, envisioned a better way to address the unique needs of justice for veterans.

### **Innovative Technology for Better Patient Care**

Class of: 2013-2014

Prompt Ambulance Service

Prompt Ambulance has gained national recognition for its use of technology to better serve a growing patient load from Chicago to South Bend. Now among the largest private ambulance services with 100,000 calls annually, Prompt made a \$2 million investment in a state-of-the-art dispatch center. This technology combined with their own unique systems, helped in the relocation of patients at Porter Regional. Now other providers are asking for this service elsewhere in the nation. Likely only a dozen ambulance services in the U.S. have this level of technology led by Gary and Shar Miller in Highland.

### **Pearl Prince**

Class of: 2012-2013

Fellow

Principal, Frankie Woods McCullough Girls' Academy

Gary

Pearl Prince, principal, Frankie Woods McCullough Girls' Academy, Gary created and implemented an educational model now in its 7th year of the city's first public all-girls academy, grades K – 7th, that has become a high performing, award-winning elementary school for students from low income areas, including two of the largest public housing developments.

### **Kassie Meeks**

Class of: 2012-2013

Member

Director, Northwest Indiana Suzuki Conservatory

Valparaiso

12/9/2016

Kassie Meeks, Director, Northwest Indiana Suzuki Conservatory, Valparaiso, has incorporated yoga into her approach to teach violin, helping students refine their playing and performances with new ease, discipline, discovery and growth. She has become a master in teaching yoga in addition to her masterful performances as a violin player and instructor.

**Dr. Neal H. Haskell**

Class of: 2012-2013  
Fellow  
Saint Joseph's College  
Rensselaer

Neal H. Haskell, Ph.D., Saint Joseph's College, Rensselaer, is a global advocate, pioneering scientist and world renowned expert in forensic entomology studying insects to solve criminal cases, testifying in more trials than any other forensic entomologist and being a trailblazer receiving the first master's and the first doctorate degrees in his field in the U.S.

**Gregg A. VanDusseldorp Sr**

Class of: 2012-2013  
Fellow  
Omnitech Systems  
Valparaiso

Gregg A. VanDusseldorp Sr., founded a medical device company called Omnitech Systems, Inc., Valparaiso, who holds 8 patents for products used by surgeons worldwide treating patients with gynecological or urological conditions through minimally invasive, less traumatic surgical techniques.

**March Chase**

Class of: 2012-2013  
Member  
Founder, Calumet Region Civil War Preservation & Tourism Project

Marc Chase, The Times & founder of the Calumet Region Civil War Preservation & Tourism Project, rediscovered the lost legacy of NWI Civil War soldiers by restoring grave stones with environmentally durable granite stones and launching a Civil War Memorial Trail utilizing technology to attract tourism and build pride during the 150th anniversary of the nation's bloodiest conflict.

**Gus Olympidis**

Class of: 2012-2013  
Fellow

12/9/2016

Founder, Family Express

Gus Olympidis, Founder and CEO, Family Express, measured up against global competitors with the nationally recognized Family Express business model of highly efficient logistics; unique brands, including the “Living Brand” for customer service; and state-of-the-art connectivity with 57 convenience stores linked to a new \$4 million headquarters/training center. Mr. Olympidis is a 2006 Member.

**Harry J. Vande Velde III**

Class of: 2012-2013

Member

Executive Director, Legacy Foundation

Harry VandeVelde III recognized in South Shore Legends the opportunity to build pride in future generations about the contributions of people from our region by sharing their “legendary moments” in a creative, fresh and modern approach through a unique teacher/student guide. It’s called, “the Legend’s Compass, a Collection of True Tales for Young Adventures and Dreamers.”

**Dave Ryan**

Class of: 2012-2013

Member

Executive Director, Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce

Finalist

Dave Ryan, Executive Director, Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce, for his vision, leadership and determination to “step outside the box” by calling for and leading a merger of two chambers of Hammond and East Chicago into a 500 plus-member chamber that blazed a new trail for regional chambers of commerce more than a decade ago, and by its example, benefited its members, both communities and the entire region.

**Raymundo A. Garcia**

Class of: 2012-2013

Member

El Taco Real Restaurant

Hammond

Finalist

Raymundo A. Garcia, El Taco Real, Hammond, for demonstrating initiative, risk-taking and personal leadership in combating social ills in his neighborhood and as an early “urban pioneer” from the private sector investing in the renewal contemporary downtown Hammond.

**Anthony Thurman**

Class of: 2012-2013

Member

Anthony Thurman, Ivy Tech alumni, launched an award-winning animated series of short films that deal with the subject of depression called “Detective Downs” that have won international recognition and have drawn on his own experiences “...with the sting of depression” from his own life.

**Olga Petryszyn**

Class of: 2012-2013

Fellow

Executive Broker, Re-MAX Affiliates

Valparaiso

Olga Petryszyn, Executive Broker, Re-MAX Affiliates, Valparaiso, is named one of the top hosta hybridizers in the U.S. and possibly the world, registering 24 hostas with 22 of varieties commercialized since 1993, including the world famous H. ‘Niagara Falls’ variety celebrated as the “ultimate” hosta plant by the American Hosta Society in 2012.

**Dr. Eugene S. Smotkin**

Class of: 2012-2013

Fellow

NuVant

Crown Point

Eugene S. Smotkin, Ph.D., NuVant, Crown Point, with 8 U.S. patents and 12 international patents, redirected his business into electronic instrumentation to augment dwindling government contracts for fuel cell research, enabling advancement in both sectors for world markets.

**Speros Batistatos**

Class of: 2012-2013

Member

Speros Batistatos has expanded and sustained the South Shore Convention & Visitors Authority with nationally recognized initiatives that promote the region as a “destination” through state-of-the-art

12/9/2016

marketing, high school sports, the Gary Airshow, and other imaginative projects. The SSCVA headquarters is likely one of the nation's most creative tourism centers with a "wow" design that captures steel, agriculture and other sectors that showcases Northwest Indiana as a great place to live, work and visit.

### **Green Farms Agronomics & Mycology Team**

Class of: 2012-2013

Member

Green Farms Agronomics & Mycology is the first vertical farm in Northwest Indiana. It differentiates itself by using vertical space to maximize yield capacities as well as incorporating environmentally sustainable practices such as passive geothermal climate control. It has a hydro-aquaponics growing system using advanced lighting systems and automated recirculating water cycles. The farm currently grows 20 different crops ranging from wheatgrass and various microgreens to lettuces, spinach as well as tomatoes and cucumbers. The model farm will also use solar collection and will be fully automated, except seeding and harvesting to be controlled remotely. The system can grow 10 acres of crops in 1 acre, compared to traditional farming methods with year-round harvests and 10 – 15% of the water use.

### **Multi-Speciality Navigation Surgery Suite Team, Methodist Hospitals**

Class of: 2012-2013

Member

Methodist Hospitals

Dr. Elian Shepherd, MD, was instrumental in leading the new Multi-Specialty Navigation operating suite that provide surgeons with greater accuracy in delicate operations and patients with increased safety. The Stryke Navigation System is housed in the suite dedicated to neurological, spinal and orthopedic surgeries. The \$1.5 million multi-speciality computer is the only one of its kind in Northwest Indiana, comparable to having a global positioning system in the operating room, allowing for greater visualization and information, better instrument placement, and better outcomes.

### **Alternative Energy Demonstration Team, Porter County Career and Tech Center**

Class of: 2012-2013

Member

Porter County Career and Tech Center

Porter County

Porter County Career and Tech Center is the first career center out of 49 vocational districts in Indiana to develop a "green technology program" and to focus on developing a cutting edge alternative energy demonstration project testing wind, solar, and energy conservation. The center built the first wind

12/9/2016



generator to be approved for residential placement in Valparaiso and the first entity to request permission to install a wind generator in the city limits. The horizontal axis wind generator is believed to be the first student-built wind generator placed on a secondary school roof in Indiana.

### **Park Prescriptions Program of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Team**

Class of: 2012-2013

Member

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Team

The National Park Service at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, partnering with Porter Health launched the Park Prescription Program, becoming the first national park in the country to launch this program as part of the Healthy Parks/Healthy People Initiative. Health care specialists have rated various trails in the park for prescription purposes. Health care professionals write prescriptions recommending use of the park to improve personal health and fitness, promote healing, and increase community wellness.

### **Lake Hills Elementary STEM Magnet School Team**

Class of: 2012-2013

Member

Lake Hills Elementary

Michigan City

Lake Hills Elementary STEM Magnet School in Michigan City opened in the fall of 2011, becoming the first in Northwest Indiana and the first non-charter magnet public school in the state. Faculty has developed a rigorous STEM curricula working with the community, and received a \$10,000 scientific grant from Vernier Software & Technology, which was only 1 of 10 elementary schools in the nation to receive this grant. Digital Age literacy skills are being integrated into the curriculum.

### **South Shore Arts/Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra Team**

Class of: 2012-2013

Member

South Shore Arts/Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra

The Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra and South Shore Arts, collaborated together to develop an innovative management and business model to sustain the symphony. Under the management structure, considered unique in this industry, the South Shore Arts has operating control of the symphony, allowing both organizations to share administrative, marketing and fundraising expenses, as well as the governance of the South Shore Arts Board. This enabled the Symphony and South Shore Arts to flourish, with "lead" funding provided by the Morrow Family Fund of the Legacy Foundation. Moreover-, approximately \$2 million has been raised to sustain this model.

12/9/2016

**Omnitech Systems Team**

Class of: 2012-2013

Member

Omnitech

Valparaiso

leader in the medical device industry and beginning a new era of growth led by a young management team dedicated to building on its international reputation for entrepreneurial excellence, innovative products, fast turnaround, and a “family culture” celebrated by employees.

**INTAC 697**

Class of: 2012-2013

Member

Merrillville

Chanute Prize Finalist

marked its century of service by building a \$10.4 million training and administration center using the criteria for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) as its design “compass,” becoming a model for unions wanting to show the world “a sustainable building for a sustainable industry.” Local 697 achieved “gold certification.”

**Michigan City Robotics Team #3936**

Class of: 2012-2013

Member

launched by Safe Harbor of Michigan City Schools embraces a wide variety of students from Michigan City as well as Westville schools, including a home school student. This team has leveraged the brain power of local manufacturing companies with the managing resources of Safe Harbor to provide a “transformative, immersive engineering challenges for local youth.” Plans call for expansion of this team into middle/elementary schools as well as LaPorte and New Prairie.

**Hospice Artisans/Hospice of the Calumet Area**

Class of: 2012-2013

Member

Hospice of the Calumet Area

12/9/2016

consist of almost 50 volunteers working for the past 6 years to create one-of-a-kind, hand-crafted items, including a copyrighted “10-Paper Box” sold in selected Chicago Boutiques. Based upon a business model of strict quality control, teamwork and continuing education, the Artisans have raised \$100,000 for the Hospice of the Calumet serving 1000 persons annually. This initiative is led by nationally recognized paper expert Pam Sussman, who consistently promotes the contributions of the entire team.

### **Rural & Rustic Tourism**

Class of: 2012-2013

Member

These four Indiana counties – Starke, Pulaski, Fulton and Cass – did not “fit” within the designated areas for tourism development. Instead, they created a collaborative marketing approach and launched a Farmers Market brochure to promote “what they grow.” Miami County joined and the group rebranded itself as “Rural and Rustic Tourism.”

### **NIPSCO “IN-Charge” Electric Vehicle Team**

Class of: 2012-2013

Member

NIPSCO

Chanute Prize Finalist

launched the “IN-Charge” Electric Vehicle Program, a two-phase, five-year project supporting and encouraging plug-in Electric Vehicles while providing financial incentives for charging stations among homeowners and communities, becoming the first program in the U.S. offering free electricity during its pilot program utilizing energy renewable credits.

### **Mobile Website Team**

Class of: 2012-2013

Member

NIPSCO

launched its first mobile website for smart phone users to provide safety and outage information plus payment options to customers. The site works with iPhones, iPads, Android phones, and other tablets and smart phones. Customers can also report electric outages, view real-time restoration updates and access a streetlight outage reporting tool.

### **Michael Nicholas, DO; Michael Nuylas, DO; and David Braunstein, MD**

Class of: 2012-2013

12/9/2016

Member

This physician team used for the first time in Northwest Indiana a drug called Clearway in the patient's lung to dissolve a pulmonary embolism and save a patient's life. This interventional drug delivery balloon is typically used for legs and hearts, but never lungs. This was only the fourth time this drug had been used to dissolve a pulmonary embolism. It has been used approximately 40 times since.

### **Portage Critical Values Design Team**

Class of: 2012-2013

Member

A 12-member Team of the Portage Township Schools representing 11 schools made up of 8 elementary, 2 middle and 1 high school involving 30 teachers and 6 administrators developed a set of Critical Values that each school is expected to use as a foundation for developing and communicating behavioral expectations. The Design Team searched the world for appropriate values: respectful, responsible, honest and truthful, fair and compassionate. The program began in 2010 and is ongoing across the district, both internally within schools and externally, the community. Currently, schools are identifying "learning experiences" as part of the third phase linked each "value." Rather than purchasing an "off the shelf" product, this model is unique to meet the needs of over 8000 students.

### **CIVS, Purdue University Calumet**

Class of: 2012-2013

Purdue University Calumet

The Center for Innovation through Visualization and Simulation (CIVS) of Purdue University Calumet, integrated visualization and simulation technologies to solve "real world problems," a model for similar technology centers across the nation by its application driven research to discover innovative solutions saving more than \$30 million for local business, industry and communities. CIVS is a 2011 – 2012 Team Member. "S-in motion."

### **ArcelorMittal Global R&D Center**

Class of: 2012-2013

ArcelorMittal

"S-in motion" is a revolutionary catalogue of steel solutions developed and introduced to the world's car makers with a huge contribution by ArcelorMittal Global R&D Center, East Chicago, representing a "first" for steel companies in embracing a new way of designing and creating steel for passenger cars that reduces the weight of vehicles to meet higher fuel standards and assure the use of steel in future automobiles. ArcelorMittal is a 2011-2012 Team Member.

12/9/2016

**Stephen R. Bartholomew**

Class of: 2011-2012

Member

Valparaiso

MBA graduate and athlete, had a better idea for indoor throwing weights for practice and competition, launching Dominator Athletics to make smaller, more durable weights, including an innovative trademarked design thrown by the top 10 Finishers in this year's USA Track and Field Indoor National Championship in Albuquerque.

**Larry Brewer**

Class of: 2011-2012

Member

Founder, South Shore Dance Alliance

Gary

Larry Brewer, founder of South Shore Dance Alliance in Gary, providing a strong foundation to students wishing to pursue a career in dance with scholarships available reflecting his belief that no talented student should be denied training, including graduates going on to Alvin Alley American Dance Theater and the Julliard School.

**Janet Brown**

Class of: 2011-2012

Fellow

Dean, Valparaiso University College of Nursing

Valparaiso

Janet Brown, Ph.D., Dean, Valparaiso University College of Nursing for launching overseas "cultural immersion" experiences for nursing students, combined with turning around the performance of the nursing college from 25 to 350 students.

**Mayor Jon Costas**

Class of: 2011-2012

Fellow

Mayor, City of Valparaiso

Valparaiso

Mayor Jon Costas of Valparaiso, for creating a “culture of innovation” which has led to a number of innovative best practices citywide, including a revitalized downtown and new urban park and gathering space.

**Ben Clement**

Class of: 2011-2012

Member

Executive Director, Gary Office of Film & Television

Gary

Ben Clement, Executive Director, Gary Office of Film & Television, for launching Indiana’s second film office, and when his department was eliminated, donating his time until his duties became part of his current responsibilities, bringing 80 films to Gary, including “Pearl Harbor’ and “Transformers III.”

**LaTrice L. Edwards**

Class of: 2011-2012

Member

LaTrice L. Edwards, a professional makeup artist whose work has been seen on major TV shows, Broadway and films, including “Public Enemies” and “Mary Poppins,” and who launched Triumphant Transitions, Inc., serving men, women and youth in transition from Lake County Community Transitions Female Division, Sojourner Truth House Maternal Health Care Services, with a day of free spa services, makeovers and career clinics.

**Linda Eyermann**

Class of: 2011-2012

Member

Director of Education, South Shore Arts

Linda Eyermann, artist and Director of Education for South Shore Arts, who created 12 paintings to show the life-altering change involving the Nimetz family of Wheatfield, whose lives were changed following a car accident on Christmas Eve morning in 2001 involving son Joe with a brain injury that put him in a coma, and later a semi-conscious state that persist to this date.

**Thomas Ference**

Class of: 2011-2012

Member

President & CEO, HR Mining & Distribution Co.

Crown Point

12/9/2016

Thomas Ference, President & CEO, HR Mining & Distribution Co., for launching an innovative delivery “tools” to locate, validate and accelerate getting “unique intellectual property” innovations to corporations, including the current HR Innovations Catalogue.

**William Halliar**

Class of: 2011-2012

Member

Robertsdale

William Halliar, P.E., with 21 patents for launching the Alternative Power Initiative sponsored by the City of Whiting to encourage alternative ideas for power sources through the “Race for the Future.”

**Angela Hambling**

Class of: 2011-2012

Fellow

Principal, Rolling Prairie Elementary School

Rolling Prairie

Angela Hambling, Principal, Rolling Prairie Elementary School, for creating an off-site activities center that lifted the educational outcomes for over 100 underserved minority students in a mobile home community, and helped raise her school to “exemplary” status.

**Henry Hansen**

Class of: 2011-2012

Member

U.S. Steel

Portage

Henry Hansen, a retired engineer from Portage, for inventing a process at U.S. Steel Gary Works now widely used called Electric Discharge Texturing of the temper mill work rolls that results in a “brilliant” finish on automobiles.

**Cynthia A. Hedge**

Class of: 2011-2012

Member

CEO, The Center for Creative Solutions

Michigan City

12/9/2016

Cynthia A. Hedge, CEO of The Center for Creative Solutions, for emphasizing creativity in organizations and introducing “World Creativity and Innovation Week” to LaPorte County, paving the way for collaboration with the Ivy Tech’s Gerald I. Lamkin Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center to expand this celebration across the region.

**Robert Johnson**

Class of: 2011-2012

Fellow

President, CIMCOR

Merrillville

Robert Johnson, President, CIMCOR, Merrillville for developing cutting edge IT security software used by the U.S. Army, The National Nuclear Security Administration, and others that takes real-time file change detection to the next level by offering instant remediation of unauthorized changes.

**Sarah Oudman**

Class of: 2011-2012

Member

Treasure Homes, Inc.

Burns Harbor

Sarah Oudman, Treasure Homes, Inc., Wheatfield, for building her very first home named The Gems which became Indiana’s First Emerald Level Certified house under the National Green Building Standard in the Villages of Burns Harbor, thereby setting an example for “green building” as the 17th single family certified home in the nation.

**Andrea M. Pearman**

Class of: 2011-2012

Member

President, Diversified Marketing

Crown Point

Andrea M. Pearman, President, Diversified Marketing, for launching “Influential Women of Northwest Indiana” honoring 22 winners, including Olga Velazquez as “Influential Woman of the Year” on June 2. This publisher of “Building Indiana” Magazine was also named 1 to 5 Indiana Companies to watch from Northwest Indiana for 2011.

**Ann Peters**

Class of: 2011-2012

12/9/2016



Member  
Crown Point

Ann Peters, Crown Point, a cancer survivor of 34 years, whose own experience inspired her to launch the Pink Ribbon Society serving Northwest Indiana, donating over \$125,000 to various cancer support organizations, helped by the organization's Pink Ribbon Society Breast Cancer Awareness Tea on Sept. 25th attended by over 700 people

**Julie Rizzo**

Class of: 2011-2012  
Fellow  
President, US Greenworks  
St. John

Julie Rizzo, President, US Greenworks and Executive Director, My Choice Recycling, St. John, who saw value where nobody else did – in scrap granite. Julie launched the first 100% granite recycling center in the U.S. and has built a national network of granite recycling centers.

**Ahmad K. El Samad**

Class of: 2011-2012  
Member  
Podiatrist, St. Catherine's Hospital  
East Chicago

Ahmad K. El Samad, DPM, a podiatrist at St. Catherine 's Hospital, for introducing the Ilizarov Technique that had never been done in Northwest Indiana as director of the hospital's Limb Recovery Center, preventing amputations associated with diabetes and making a difference in lives of patients.

**Alexandre da Silva**

Class of: 2011-2012  
Member  
Instructor, Calumet College of St. Joseph  
Hammond

Alexandre da Silva, Instructor, Visiting Professor of Science, Calumet College of St. Joseph, for introducing a Science Sketch Book as a unique instructional strategy to teach visual learning of basic science and physics, enhancing critical thinking skills, motivation and classroom performance.

**Sandra Soczyk Rodriguez**

12/9/2016

Class of: 2011-2012  
Member  
Gary

Sandra Soczyk Rodriguez of Gary for creating innovative linkages between farmers and consumers, having established “Miller Beach Farmers Market” in 2008, and just completing a one-year internship with Purdue Extension, she launched a new initiative with the Stewart House Urban Farm and Gardens Project.

**Carolyn Saxton**

Class of: 2011-2012  
Member  
Executive Director, Lubeznik Center for the Arts  
Michigan City

Carolyn Saxton, Executive Director, Lubeznik Center for the Arts, for expanding an after-hours gallery event as a catalyst to make Michigan City an “artists’ colony,” which now includes the Uptown Arts District; ArtSpace, a live/work space for artists; and public art displays.

**Mayor Joseph Stahura**

Class of: 2011-2012  
Member  
Mayor, City of Whiting  
Whiting

Mayor Joseph Stahura of Whiting, for improving government efficiency, building partnerships with neighboring communities, and revitalizing infrastructure, including a new lakefront area and downtown baseball stadium.

**Cong. Peter J. Visclosky**

Class of: 2011-2012  
Fellow  
Cong.,  
Washington D.C.

Congressman Pete Visclosky for launching The Marquette Project in 1985 with the goal of reclaiming at least 75% of the lakeshore for public use. Today, through investments by local communities and the Regional Development Authority, it continues to transform our lakefront. Pete is a 2006 – 2007 Member.

### **Michelle Murphy Wise**

Class of: 2011-2012

Member

Program Director, VNA Phoenix Center  
Valparaiso

Michelle Murphy Wise, Program Director, VNA Phoenix Center, Valparaiso for meeting a need in providing a peer support program for grieving children, teens and young adults, by allowing them to express themselves through talk, art, play, music journaling and other mediums. Caring and acceptance by participants, staff and volunteers assist in the healing process.

### **ArcelorMittal S-in Motion**

Class of: 2011-2012

Member

ArcelorMittal  
East Chicago

The ArcelorMittal S-in Motion” Team is the culmination of a two-year Research and Development investment by the Global Automotive Division. ArcelorMittal’s Global R&D Center in East Chicago contributed significantly to this path-breaking initiative. The “S-in Motion” model introduces new ways to use even higher strength grades together with novel design and manufacturing to further reduce vehicle weight, receiving Best Process Innovation Award in America Metal Market’s 2011 Awards for Steel Excellence.

### **Center for Innovation through Visualization and Simulation**

Class of: 2011-2012

Member

Center for Innovation through Visualization and Simulation  
Hammond

The Center for Innovation through Visualization and Simulation (CVIS) is a non-profit research center at Purdue University Calumet utilizing technology to tackle challenging problems to promote economic development, improve productivity, energy use and limit environmental impacts. Director Chenn Zhou engages a multi-disciplinary team of visualization specialists and engineers along with students to solve problems utilizing virtual reality visualization.

### **Hobart Latex Paint Recycling Center**

Class of: 2011-2012

12/9/2016

Member  
Hobart Latex Pain Recycling Center  
Hobart

The Hobart Latex Paint Recycling Center is a joint effort of the City of Hobart and the Lake County Solid Waste District. The Center houses a one-of-a-kind piece of equipment that is designed to blend used latex paint. The is free to municipalities and non-profits, and individuals may purchase the paint. As of the first nine months of operation, 2754 paint cans were recycled. Thanks to Hobart, a former land fill deposit is an “environmental green” accomplishment.

### **IVDiagnostics**

Class of: 2011-2012  
Member  
Valparaiso

IVDiagnostics at Entech, Valparaiso, for launching a new diagnostic tool to fight cancer that provides identification of rare circulating tumor cells in vivo that is non-toxic and eliminates the problem of current methods that suffer from high false positives and negatives.

### **Kiwanis “Keys to the City Project**

Class of: 2011-2012  
Member  
Valparaiso

The Kiwanis “Keys to the City Project” Team consists of putting out pianos on display for the public to play in downtown Lincolnway in Valparaiso to encourage art and music, providing 8 pianos during two weeks in July for a second year, inspired by learning about a similar initiative in London. Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Valparaiso and partners...

### **Newton County Renewable Energy Park**

Class of: 2011-2012  
Member  
Newton County

County providing a clean, economical, reliable, renewable energy source located near the Newton Council landfill, considered one of the largest in North America. The energy park was created through a partnership with Allied Waste, now Republic Services, led by Newton County Commissioner Russell Collins and the Newton County Commissioners. A ribbon cutting ceremony launched the energy park and the park’s first client, INIG, a manufacturing facility utilizing methane to make corrugated cardboard items such as egg cartons.

12/9/2016

### **NIPSCO Electric Outage Map Reporting Project**

Class of: 2011-2012

Member

Merrillville

The Electric Outage Map Reporting Project launched its new on-line electric outage information system. This system provides real time information on current electrical outages across the NIPSCO service territory. Information is provided on a map showing the number of outages and their locations. In 2010, the state-of-the-art system was upgraded to include estimated restoration times. Responders now have a better tool to use in emergency situations.

### **NIPSCO Street Light Outage Reporting Project**

Class of: 2011-2012

Member

Merrillville

The NIPSCO Street Light Outage Reporting Project launched the first on-line reporting of streetlight outages of any utility in Indiana in 2011. This allows customers and others to easily report street light outages and their current location. The new on-line reporting tool allows an outage to be reported by clicking on its physical location on a map. The tool can also report back to the customer when the light is repaired.

### **Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District**

Class of: 2011-2012

Member

The Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District installed dark fiber-optic cable for its signal system as well as network communications, installing excess cable to outside enterprises to enhance communications across Lake, Porter, LaPorte and St. Joseph County as well as Cook County, offering high-speed communications extending a distance of 74 miles that increased the opportunity to attract high tech companies.

### **Red Mill County Park, LaPorte**

Class of: 2011-2012

Member

La Porte

The Red Mill County Park Team collaborated with the Army Corps of Engineers and other partners to use innovative ideas and partnerships to remove a hazardous dam and rescue hundreds of acres of wetlands of the Little Calumet River in LaPorte County. This a \$1.8 million project that required creative financing and used for the first time Great Lakes Fisheries and Ecosystem Restoration Project funds.

### **Shared Ethics Advisory Commission**

Class of: 2011-2012

Member

Schererville

The Shared Ethics Advisory Commission is a unique collaborative initiative sharing a code of ethics and values involves 5 communities: Crown Point, Highland, Munster, Schererville, and Whiting. Members here are Dennis Rittenmeyer, Richard Maroc representing Munster; Jo Pellicciotti, Tom DeGuilio, Annual Rominger, Cal Bellamy and Lloyd Rowe. Also participating are Tom Dykiel representing Schererville, Brian Lowery, Whiting; Rev. David Trexler, Highland; and Rev. Mark Wikins, Crown Point.

### **SolaRover**

Class of: 2011-2012

Member

Michigan City

SolaRover Manufacturing, Michigan City, led by Winn Machine Inc., and MCTD, Inc. that designs and builds “highly portable and zero emissions” solar generators as an alternative to diesel generators for emergencies, the military and world markets.

### **STAND**

Class of: 2011-2012

Member

Merrillville

STAND (Socially Together and Naturally Diverse) is among the Midwest’s first diversity clubs for students launched in the Merrillville Community Schools, which this year involved 100 randomly selected students in a program called “We Are Merrillville High” Challenge Day to encourage respect for others, with the club sponsored by Coordinator of Diversity Programming Danny Lackey and Co-Sponsor Allison Skertic.

### **Starke County Lead Track and Cross Dock Facility Project**

Class of: 2011-2012

12/9/2016

Member  
Starke County

The Starke County Lead Track and Cross Dock Facility Team was led by Terry Kimmel, the now retired. The Team Time Engineers launched one of the first computer games to help students learn about engineering. This award-winning game introduces foundational concepts of engineering, from ancient Egypt, where students learn to build pyramids, to World War II, where they design a submarine or radar system. For more than a decade, Time Engineers has been considered one of the best engineering computer games. It was designed by the College of Engineering, Valparaiso University, and Software Kids. Executive director of the Starke County Economic Development Foundation. Kimmel led the team in creating what is believed to be the only lead track and cross dock facility in Indiana that is owned by a county, and managed by a local economic development organization in conjunction with the Norfolk Southern Railroad. The project encompassing about 250 acres, costs about \$1.6 million and it has generated approximately \$50 million in new investment and over 300 new jobs.

### **Time Team Engineers**

Class of: 2011-2012

Member  
Valparaiso

The Team Time Engineers launched one of the first computer games to help students learn about engineering. This award-winning game introduces foundational concepts of engineering, from ancient Egypt, where students learn to build pyramids, to World War II, where they design a submarine or radar system. For more than a decade, Time Engineers has been considered one of the best engineering computer games. It was designed by the College of Engineering, Valparaiso University, and Software Kids.

### **Working Well ISO 9001:2008 Project**

Class of: 2011-2012

Member

The Working Well ISO Team from the Franciscan Alliance became the first Occupational Health Program in the world to become certified under the ISO 9001:2008 standard. This was a tedious undertaking as the team translated the standard from an industrial setting to health care. This team took a data-driven approach to create a new quality management system based upon this ISO standard. Normally this standard is only used in industry. The Working Well Program is a network of occupational healthcare providers serving Northwest Indiana.

### **Judge Lorenzo Arredondo**

12/9/2016

Class of: 2010-2011  
Member  
Judge, Lake County Courts  
Lake County

Judge Arredondo touched the lives of countless children by setting up the Domestic Relations Counseling Bureau. The bureau has gives families access to cutting edge conciliation services. Judge Arredondo is the longest serving Hispanic state court judge in the country.

**P. Scott Bening**

Class of: 2010-2011  
Fellow  
CEO, MonoSol LLC  
Merrillville

Over the past 22 years, Scott has led this company to be the world's leader in specialty water-soluble, polymer-based films used in a wide variety of industries. MonoSol is headquartered in Merrillville and has manufacturing plants in Portage, LaPorte and England, G. B.

**Ralph W. Braun**

Class of: 2010-2011  
Fellow  
CEO, Braun Industries  
Winamac

Ralph's company helps people in wheelchairs get in and out of vans for greater mobility. Braun is the largest manufacturer of wheelchair accessible min-vans and lifts in the United States and serves customers on four continents. He came up with the lift idea that revolutionized the industry.

**Kevin M. Brunski**

Class of: 2010-2011  
Member  
Dentist/Inventor, The Tooth Tag

Dr. Brunski invented "The Tooth Tag" which provides permanent identification and a personal health record. This patent pending technique provides a method of implanting a transponder in a tooth, denture or dental prosthesis.

**Howard Cohen**

11/30/2015



Class of: 2010-2011  
Fellow  
Chancellor, Purdue University Calumet  
Hammond

Dr. Cohen has transformed Purdue University Calumet into a “high quality regional full-service university.” The “signature” is experiential learning in which all students are required to take at least two courses to graduate. He also established centers and institutes, provided student housing, and expanded the number of international students. Dr. Cohen has been a Member since 2007-2008.

**Russell J. Collins Jr.**

Class of: 2010-2011  
Member  
Commissoner, Newton County  
Newton County

Commissioner Collins demonstrated leadership, collaboration and innovation. During the last seven years, Newton County has led the region in business retention, expansion and new development. Projects include a one-stop government center in Morocco and the creation of the Renewable Energy Park next to a landfill in which the park would utilize landfill methane gas.

**Joan Dorman**

Class of: 2010-2011  
Member  
Professor, Purdue University Calumet  
Hammond

A nurse and an Associate Clinical Professor of Nursing, Prof. Dorman designed a systematic way to work through ethical issues that nurses face everyday. She presented her ethical positioning system at Oxford University at an ethics conference.

**Russell Edwards**

Class of: 2010-2011  
Member  
Coolway Refridgeration  
St. John

Mr. Edwards overcame a safety issue in which refrigerated trucks pull away without unplugging the truck, causing damage and potentially harming workers. He designed and created the patent –approved Electrical Power Interruption Control (EPIC) device.

11/30/2015

**The late Robert Forney**

Class of: 2010-2011

Fellow

The Global Food Banking Network  
Chicago

In launching this initiative, Mr. Forney's goal was to help provide food aid to 1.2 billion people considered "food insecure." He and his staff worked with the top 25 food companies worldwide to reduce world hunger. He passed tragically on Aug. 29, 2010.

**Karen Hannon**

Class of: 2010-2011

Member

Founder, Lounge N Lax  
Portage

Ms. Hannon developed and designed functional apparel geared for children with cancer and other terminal illnesses. Her designs are patent-pending eco-friendly products that are hypoallergenic, thermal regulating and odor free. She also launched a benefit for cancer patients.

**Larry Galler**

Class of: 2010-2011

Member

CS Design  
Valparaiso

Mr. Galler launched a program to transform small businesses to sustainability called "One Year to Greatness." Through interactive webinars with clients across the country, he helps companies improve through group and one-on-one sessions, tailoring the content to fit needs – all without face-to-face contact.

**Greg Hamstra**

Class of: 2010-2011

Member

CEO, The Hamstra Group  
Wheatfield

Mr. Hamstra approached Demotte with the idea of a focal point for the downtown consisting of a business district connected to a park and walking trails. This subdivision now includes St. Anthony's Medical Center. He also donated 2 acres for a fountain to be located in the park center.

**Christine Hisick**

Class of: 2010-2011

Member

Community Organizer, Banta Feeds

Valparaiso

Christine Hisick founded Banta Feeds which facilitates food drives for local food pantries, as well as launched Hands around the Square to promote inclusion in the community.

**Robert A. Kramer**

Class of: 2010-2011

Member

Ph.D., Executive Director, Energy Efficiency and Reliability Center at Purdue University Calumet

Hammond

Dr. Kramer's goal is to provide Northwest Indiana with better energy efficiency, reliability and supply options. He approached PUC with the idea of establishing this center seven years ago.

**Jeffrey T. Moody**

Class of: 2010-2011

Member

President, College of Court Reporting

Hobart

Mr. Moody introduced EV360, a new online learning opportunity for students to improve skills as court reporters. This interactive technology helps students learn, including a first-of-its kind time management system for non-traditional students.

**Mirko Marich**

Class of: 2010-2011

Member

President, Contract Services Group

Hammond

To improve material handling for Lear Corporation, Mirko launched a new order picking system. The system called "Wizard" led to a Version 2.0 system, which has a mobile computer unit. As the Ford Explore program gets underway, a newer version is being developed.

**Tom Sourlis**

Class of: 2010-2011

Fellow

MortarNet

Burns Harbor

Tom invented and patented a product that led to the founding of MortarNet, now in Burns Harbor. He has created and supported numerous charitable organizations as a result of his success.

**Ernest Talarico**

Class of: 2010-2011

Fellow

Ph.D., Indiana University School of Medicine at Indiana University Northwest

Gary

Dr. Talarico has organized, coordinated, directed and led courses in human cadaver prosection that correlates anatomical dissection and anatomic radiology for the past 11 years. He is the founder of the International Human Cadaver Prosection Program that has brought international acclaim to this school and community.

**Indiana Sen. Karen Tallian**

Class of: 2010-2011

Member

Senator, State of Indiana

Portage

Sen. Tallian created legislation requiring a bank to notify the homeowner of the right to a conference before finalizing a foreclosure. Both parties are required to bring documentation, and the courts have the ability to continue the proceeding.

**Charles Weaver, J.D.**

Class of: 2010-2011

Member

Executive Director, Starke County Economic Development Foundation

Starke County

11/30/2015

Mr. Weaver deployed an “inventive” financial package utilized to build an industrial park serving a planned SYSCO Redistribution Center generating nearly \$4 million of existing infrastructure improvements in Starke County, with the local investment through a CDIT tax of \$500,000. Using these funds, Mr. Weaver leveraged an addition \$3 and ½ million in grants.

**Chariece White**

Class of: 2010-2011

Member

President, Barden Foundation

East Chicago

Ms. White invited 30 cancer survivors from all walks of life to tell their stories to her guests at the Radisson who were then taken to 16 different “out of the box” locations for dinner. Then they returned to the Radisson for post reception to honor the Breast Cancer survivors.

**ArcelorMittal Energy Balance Team**

Class of: 2010-2011

Member

ArcelorMittal

East Chicago

An international team led by Mark Atkinson, Ph.D., Manager Energy & Recycling at the ArcelorMittal Global R & D Center, developed a comprehensive tool over the course of a year to assess the impact that major capital projects can have on energy utilization and performance at the Indiana Harbor steel plant, as well as calculating CO 2 emissions.

**Dage –MTI, Michigan City**

Class of: 2010-2011

Member

Dage-MTI

Michigan City

Co-Recipient of the Chanute Prize

Dage-MTI in Michigan City, the oldest camera company in the United States, was about to close its doors. New owners John and Peggy Moore invested in new products and technology aimed at making the finest digital video cameras. Today, Dage-MTI is a transformed company, with its new Excel series of digital cameras for microscopic research. Dage – MTI has been a Member since 2009 – 2010.

### **“Exploration Ocean, Mission Ocean”**

Class of: 2010-2011

Member

The Center for Science and Technology Education of Purdue University Calumet  
Hammond

Co-Recipient of the Chanute Prize

Led by The Center for Science and Technology Education of Purdue University Calumet supported by the U.S. Navy Submarine Command...CSTE is expanding its successful submarine simulation enrichment project to encourage STEM skills in upper elementary and middle schools through local science centers nationwide.

### **Indiana Grand Kankakee Marsh Restoration Project**

Class of: 2010-2011

Member

This brings together more than 30 diverse groups in a 15-year old effort to restore natural functions of the Grand Kankakee Marsh involving 16 partners. It acquired nearly 9,900 acres, restored more than 6,800 acres and enhanced nearly 4000 acres of wetland and associated upland.

### **Lutheran Braille Bible Press Team**

Class of: 2010-2011

Member

Valparaiso University  
Valparaiso

Based upon a design by Bob Steingass of Task Force Tips, a team led by Dr. G. Scott Duncan of the V.U. College of Engineering developed a new generation Braille printing press for The Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) to produce Braille and large print Bibles for the visually impaired worldwide.

### **9magnets**

Class of: 2010-2011

Member

Portage

Cameron Banga and Michael Philes, 2010 graduates of Valparaiso University and both residents of Hobart, are creators of iPhone app “Battery Go!” and the Ipad app “TapBlasterHD.” Upon graduation, they launched 9 Magnets, a mobile application development and marketing company. “Battery Go!” featured in national media and downloaded by 40,000 iPhone users.

11/30/2015

### **Portage Township Schools Differentiated Instruction Team**

Class of: 2010-2011

Member

Portage Township Schools

Portage

The Portage Team comprised eight elementary teachers, four middle school teachers and two high school teachers and one administrator. This team worked with the River Forest to share best practices involving differentiated instructions so that the needs of all learners are effectively met.

### **Reilly's Philanthropy Boot Camp Team**

Class of: 2010-2011

Member

The Reilly Foundation

Valparaiso

The Reilly Foundation launched Reilly's Philanthropy Boot Camp, a unique philanthropy education program for high school students at Valparaiso and Portage High Schools to promote self-esteem for "at risk" populations as well as all students.

### **Taltree Aboretum & Gardens**

Class of: 2010-2011

Member

Taltree Aboretum

Valparaiso

Taltree has launched two innovative public gardens. Oak Ilands is a unique collection of oaks from around the world. The Railway Gardens & Depot provide interpretive education through vignettes and signage.

### **Team Ugly**

Class of: 2010-2011

Member

UglyChristmasSweaterParty.com

This team is comprised of Brian Miller, Adam Paulson and Kevin Wool who developed a website "UglyChristmasSweaterParty.com" to connect the public with the ability to purchase "Ugly Christmas Sweaters" online. The site was recognized nationally.

11/30/2015

**Kristin Sievers-Banks**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

Teacher, Scott Middle School  
Hammond

This teacher of the Year as recognized by the Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce uses innovative techniques to help students grasp science.

**Robin Bisseker**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

President, True Blue Pool Products  
Valparaiso

Mr. Bisseker launched the "Pool Python," a patented pool skimming device that reduces energy consumption, water consumption and chemical usage for cleaning swimming pools.

**Frank Brummett**

Class of: 2009-2010

Fellow

Founder, BerylMartin

He conceived and launched "Feed the Future" Christmas parties, Hollywood style, for thousands of urban children

**Thomas E. Carroll**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

President, Lakeshore Public TV & Radio

Mr. Carroll brought a new energy to the station, making Lakeshore a unifying force to regionalism and connecting people, ideas, and information through multiple media, including for the first time in Northwest Indiana public radio.

**David Cook**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

Co-Owner, Hoosier Bat

11/30/2015



Valparaiso

This co-owner invented, patented and manufactured a more durable wood bat made of an ash handle, hickory area and soft maple on the barrel end, giving more durability in the hitting area.

**Leon Dombrowski**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

Account Imaging  
Hammond

Mr. Dombrowski launched interchangeable signage, filling a void with an adaptable, affordable and accessible products.

**Steve Douglas**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

Retired Art Instructor, North Newton High School  
Morocoo

His creative techniques – such as the recreation of “Whooville” out of pottery – sparked student’s interest, promoted reading, and encouraged scholarship.

**Diha Feije**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

President, Euclid Diagnostics, LLC

Dr. Feije is helping this new business is developing methodologies to detect gene-splitting technology to reduce the number of unnecessary biopsies performed for routine prostate cancer screening. Euclid is based at the Purdue Technology Center.

**T. Clifford Fleming**

Class of: 2009-2010

Fellow

Villages in Burns Harbor  
Burns Harbor

11/30/2015

Mr. Fleming launched the first residential development in the nation to be certified under the National Homebuilders Green Building Program next to steel mills and interstates.

**Reggie Flesvig**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

Teacher, Porter Township Schools

Porter

Mr. Flesvig uses “technology innovation” as a method of engaging students in authentic learning practices, tapping into digital experiences to help underachieving students.

**W. Dennis Hodges**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

Indiana High Speed Rail Association

Merrillville

Mr. Hodges advocacy and leadership encourages 21st century high speed passenger travel through the Indiana High Speed Rail Association.

**John P. Hodson**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

Kankakee Valley Historical Society

Kouts

Mr. Hodson launched the longterm R&D project between the Kankakee Valley Historical Society and the Department of Anthropology at the University of Notre Dame with a unique grassroots focus using archeology to help preserve and interpret local history.

**Carvel Hoffman**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

Retired Engineer, ArcelorMittal

East Chicago

Mr. Hoffman engineered first-in-the-world products, including the first tomographic sheet profile gauge that was inspired by how astronomers look at objects.

11/30/2015

**Mary Hunter**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

Mary's Marinating Stick

Gary

This great grandmother invented "Mary's Marinating Stick" to enhance the flavor of meat and solve the problem of overnight marinating that is now available to chefs online and is expected to be sold in Walmart stores.

**Mark C. Kime**

Class of: 2009-2010

Fellow

Director, Cardiology & Neurology, Porter Health Systems

Mr. Kime makes live better for patients and employees, creating several inventions used in other states and countries such as the world's first single wheel detachable moving invention.

**Denise Koebcke**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

Media Specialist, Jefferson Middle School

Valparaiso

Ms. Koebcke launched the Team Lead Program that encouraged student leadership among bystanders to cope with bullying behavior.

**Robert Koval**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

Principal, Evans Elementary School

Lake Station

Principal Koval led an eight-year initiative that turned an asphalt area into an award-winning outdoor environmental classroom.

**Jason Lenig**

Class of: 2009-2010

11/30/2015

Member  
Teacher, New Rolling Prairie High School  
Rolling Prarie

He launched a new patented baseball called “Hitter’s Eye” for training pitchers that represents “the only idea accepted from the outside every 5 years” by Rawlings Sports Corporation...”

**John (Jack) Moreland**

Class of: 2009-2010  
Fellow  
Senior Scientist, Center for Innovation through Visualization and Simulation  
Hammond

Mr. Moreland cutting edge visualization technology to better understand complex challenges from engineering, business and the sciences that help unravel daunting problems and inspire people to see things in a new way.

**Dan Plath**

Class of: 2009-2010  
Member  
Northwest Indiana Paddling Association  
Westville

Mr. Path created new ways to explore Northwest Indiana through underutilized waterways and launched the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association, including the Burnham to Marquette Water Trail Expedition.

**Mark Reshkin, Ph.D.**

Class of: 2009-2010  
Member  
Co-Founder, Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center  
Valparaiso

He did pioneering work, not only as a geologist, but also with Lee Botts in co-founding the Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center and the Quality of Life Council.

**Elizabeth Ridenour**

Class of: 2009-2010  
Member

11/30/2015

Teacher, Kesling Middle School  
La Porte

Ms. Ridenour launched the Dino Dig curriculum in which student “paleontologists” dig up “dino” artifacts from three tons of sand to study science in her classroom.

**Robert Rivers, Ph.D.**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

Purdue University Calumet  
Hammond

Dr. Rivers, Director, Center for Science and Technology Education, Purdue Calumet, launched this curriculum for middle school students featuring a deep sea submarine involving a computer simulation in three states to enhance math and science skills

**Mike Sanders**

Class of: 2009-2010

Fellow

President, CPX Inc.  
Kentland

His “out of the box thinking” has made him almost legendary for coming up with solutions that have even stumped GM engineers and helped make his company one of the largest employers in Newton County.

**David J. Saylor**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

President, Utility Services Corporation  
Valparaiso

Mr. Saylor patented technology to isolate restrictions in collection systems and help small communities rehabilitate their storm sewer and sanitary collection systems at a much lower cost.

**Gregory Simms**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

Teacher, Washington Township High School

11/30/2015

This teacher and former Indiana legislator integrates history into his teaching, such as creating a dodge ball game that simulated World War II and thereby, became a highly popular and interactive teaching tool.

**Myra Spearman**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

The Weaker Vessel

Gary

This survivor of domestic violence for 18 years launched a website, the nation's only online data base of domestic violence abusers to save lives and prevent domestic abuse.

**Robert Vellines**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

Gary

Mr. Vellines created a ground fault circuit interrupter for swimming pools that is designed to shut off a circulation pump motor in a drain using sensors to save lives.

**Patrick A. Wilkins**

Class of: 2009-2010

Fellow

President, Boss Industries

La Porte

Mr. Wilkins founded the company in 1988 using innovative technology to enhance rotary screw PTO air compressor, generator and hydraulic systems within a truck chassis that are safe, dependable and practical. He took an existing technology and is innovative in applying it to new applications to meet the needs of customers worldwide.

**Bart J. Wolf**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

Director, Department of Geography and Meteorology, Valparaiso University

Valparaiso

Dr. Wolf created a scientifically rigorous and nationally recognized meteorology program for students, including the annual storm-chasing trips to the Great Plains.

**ArcelorMittal Advanced High Strength Steel Project**

Class of: 2009-2010

ArcelorMittal

East Chicago

Chanute Prize for Team Innovation

ArcelorMittal North American R&D Center was involved in a three-company project in Canada and the United States to develop a new hydroformed steel body structure earning a top safety rating for the 2009 Ford 150 Trucks.

**Dage-MTI**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

Dage-MTI

Michigan City

John and Peggy Moore, co-owners, turned around the oldest camera manufacturer of the United States in a two-year initiative to develop the “next generation” video digital camera for microscopes in laboratories around the world for bio-medical research and other uses.

**Fair Oaks Farms**

Class of: 2009-2010

Fair Oaks Farms

Newton County

Chanute Prize for Team Innovation

Fair Oaks Farms developed a 21st Century business model that includes educating the public through the Dairy Adventure Center and developing a closed-loop system that includes utilizing cow waste products as a “green” strategy for biomass energy.

**Highland Redevelopment Commission**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

Highland Redevelopment Commission

Highland

11/30/2015

The Bult Oil Phytoremediation Project involved the planting of poplar trees on the site of the refinery, a brownfield development strategy that cleaned up the site at one quarter of the cost of other remediation.

### **Jupiter Oxygen Corporation**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

Jupiter Oxygen Corporation

Hammond

This company invented a high flame temperature combustion heat transfer technology working with the DOE National Energy Technology Laboratory that saves fuel, reduces carbon emissions, and cuts fossil fuel usage in recycling aluminum products.

### **Wristband Safety Project**

Class of: 2009-2010

Member

School of Nursing, Purdue University Calumet

Hammond

A capstone course for nursing students launched a statewide color-coded system for patient identification with the help of the Northwest Indiana hospitals and the Indiana Hospital Association that standardizes wristband colors for patients to save lives.

### **Geoff Anderson**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Calumet College of St. Joseph

Whiting

He led a comprehensive regional approach to public safety through Calumet College.

### **Richard Bender**

Class of: 2008-2009

Fellow

Jefferson Middle School

This science teacher is one of the “winningest” Olympiad coaches in the nation. His science teams have ranked nationally. He was featured in the Wall Street Journal.

11/30/2015



**Robert Beigh**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Portage High School

Portage

He pioneered Project Lead the Way engineering curricula in Portage and Indiana high schools

**Lee Botts**

Class of: 2008-2009

Fellow

Environmentalism, Environmental Learning Center

She demonstrated exceptional and sustainable environmental achievements and brought awareness to the importance of sustaining our Great Lakes and Lake Michigan. She co-founded the Environmental Learning Center with Mark Reshkin.

**Chief Michael Brickner**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Police Chief, Valparaiso Police

Valparaiso

He positioned Valparaiso as a “technology advanced” and forward-looking police department.

**Frank Brummett**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Founder, BerylMartin

He conceived and launched “Feed the Future” Christmas parties, Hollywood style, for thousands of urban children

**Mike Bucy**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Red Devil Training

Portage

11/30/2015

HeHeHe created and offered flexible fire fighting training at the firehouse rather than a central location

**Chancellor James Dworkin**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Chancellor, Purdue North Central

La Porte County

He championed innovative thinking at Purdue North Central and encouraging a regional approach in LaPorte County...

**Lincoln Ellis**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Executive Director, Boys & Girls Clubs of NWI

He galvanized the Boys & Girls Clubs of NWI.

**Sarah H. Givens**

Class of: 2008-2009

Fellow

Principal, Banneker Achievement Center

She raised the educational attainment of elementary students in Gary in the face of enormous challenges, making her elementary school No. 1 in Indiana.

**Michelle Golden**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Books, Brushes, and Bands

She encourages Hammond students in arts and education through Books, Brushes and Bands.

**Gary Gray**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Valparaiso High School

11/30/2015

Valparaiso

He is a “profilic” advocate for engineering and technology education.

**Joe Grossbauer**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Chesterton

He assisted WBEZ Chicago Public Radio to expand coverage of NWI news through new alliances.

**Indra Gupta**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

ArcelorMittal

He was recognized as a “world leader” of product developments at the ArcelorMittal R& D Global Center, East Chicago.

**Judge Mary Harper**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Judge, Porter County

Valparaiso

She was recognized as a judicial leader in Porter County and Indiana in launching the mental health diversion program for youth

**Alan Harre, Ph.D.**

Class of: 2008-2009

Fellow

Retired President, Valparaiso Univeristy

Valparaiso

He positioned Valparaiso University as a premiere and internationally recognized institution.

**Richard Hengst, Ph.D.**

Class of: 2008-2009

11/30/2015

Member  
Purdue University North Central

He pioneered in dinosaur fossil discovery and engaging high school classes through the internet in expeditions across the world

**Dean Kaesebier**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member  
Co-Alliance  
La Porte

He created a membership-owned supply and marketing partnership through brought four regional agricultural cooperatives together.

**Greg Karas**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member  
Parkview Elementary School  
Valparaiso

He developed a unique teaching style of science to students at Parkview Elementary.

**Dr. Peter C. Kesling**

Class of: 2008-2009

Fellow  
Kesling & Associates  
La Porte

He is a prolific inventor with more than 55 patents, a leader in orthodontics, and a philanthropist in LaPorte County.

**Eric Kundich**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member  
East Chicago Public Schools  
East Chicago

He energized the Purdue Calumet/NWI Science Olympiad award-winning program.

11/30/2015

**Carolyn Langlie-Lesnik**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Scientist, Cancer Survivor & Advocate,  
Crown Point

She educates physicians globally as a cancer survivor with information that saves lives...

**Daniel Lowery, Ph.D.**

Class of: 2008-2009

Calumet College of St. Joseph

He improved our quality of life through the Quality of Life Council, including revising and implement the QLC indicators that are increasingly adopted region wide

**U.S. Senator Richard Lugar**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Senator,

He encourages energy independence from foreign oil through alternative fuels and leads in reducing the nuclear threat in the world...

**Larry McAfee**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

DVM, McAfee Veteriniary Clinic  
Valparaiso

He helped conceptionalize and develop the North Central Veterinary Emergency Center, the first partnership of its kind in the U.S. between a land grant university and veterinarians

**Akilia McCain**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Opera Singer,  
Gary

She is an acclaimed opera singer from Gary who is using her singing in her therapeutic clinic to help children learn and grow

11/30/2015

**Robert McShane**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Purdue Technology Center

He launched the first high speed manufacturing process to coat steel or aluminum coils.

**Thomas McDermott, Jr.**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Mayor, City of Hammond

Hammond

He led the development of the "College Bound Program," the creative use of casino dollars to send Hammond youth to college and encourage home ownership.

**Gus Olympidis**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Family Express

Through Family Express, he is one of the largest providers of E-85 fuels, and offering his own brand distribution system through his convenience stores.

**Dick Parrett**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

La Porte

His firm provides unique packaging services through his customizing packaging business.

**Kathi Pavlou**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Ticklebug

She created and launched with her daughter the Ticklebug Baby Changing Kit while working at St. Margaret Hospital.

11/30/2015

**Michael Rippey**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

ArcelorMittal

Burns Harbor

He champions innovative change as president of the largest steel company in the United States.

**Frank Schilling**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Christ's Passion

St. John

He launched an international shrine in St. John.

**Dean Schroeder, Ph.D.**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Dean, Valparaiso University

Valparaiso

He encouraging companies to inspire employees for new ideas at Valparaiso University and has authored a book on "ideas..."

**Donna Spivak**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Teacher, Grimmer Middle School

Schererville

She is recognized for her unique approaches in the classroom, including a mock trial involving Humpty Dumpty vs. the King at Grimmer Middle School...

**Robert Steingass**

Class of: 2008-2009

Fellow

Task Force Tips

Valparaiso

11/30/2015

He has invented the Monsoon water cannon that has a “totally new extremely efficient way” to fight fires by throwing water further and faster, the equivalent of 2,000 gallons a minute.

**Era Twyman**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Executive Director, Gary Literacy Coalition, Inc.

Gary

She is celebrated for her passion and commitment to literacy in Gary.

**Jim Walker**

Class of: 2008-2009

President, Kingz Head

Valparaiso

He turned a hobby into a manufacturing business making improved parts for radio-controlled cars in Valparaiso.

**Floyd Williams**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Corsair Graphics

Gary

He created new concepts for the digital sign making market in Gary.

**Jeremy Williams**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Math Instructor, Merrillville Intermediate School

Merrillville

He piloted an inquiry math project to help students problem-solve at Merrillville Intermediate School.

**Jon Ziulkowski**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

11/30/2015



Purdue University  
Portage

He initiated a seamless, renewable aviation fuel at the West Lafayette incubator of Purdue University.

**ArcelorMittal R&D Global Team**

Class of: 2008-2009  
Member  
ArcelorMittal  
East Chicago

ArcelorMittal benefits from game-changing steel products and processes through the Americas R&D Center

**Bird-Brain Brothers Birdhouses**

Class of: 2008-2009  
Bird-Brain Brothers Birdhouses  
Scherverville

Nick 8, and Andy, 7, (Parker) Mendoza, two brothers, build and sell customizing birdhouses inspired by their grandfather in Merrillville.

**Chanute Aquatorium Society**

Class of: 2008-2009  
Member  
Chanute Aquatorium Society  
Gary

Over a 10 year period, the Gary Bathhouse into a symbol of the resilient spirit of the City of Gary, Chanute, and the Tuskegee Airmen.

**EDIS Team of Edgewater Systems**

Class of: 2008-2009  
Member  
Edgewater Systems  
Gary

EDIS Team has streamlined and improved client documentation and billing of mental health services.

11/30/2015

### **Great Lakes/St. Lawrence River Water Resources Compact Team**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

This involves a unique public/private partnership involving industrial and the environmental partners to preserve and protect our Great Lakes.

### **Hilltop Housing Partnership for Families**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Valparaiso

This is a partnership of several churches and not-for-profits creating affordable housing with the City of Valparaiso as a partner.

### **I need a Hug Program**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Valparaiso University Girls Softball Team

Valparaiso

This initiative involves the collection and distribution of new stuffed animals to elementary schools to console children going through a difficult time, helped by the United Way Regional Volunteer Center based the United Way of Porter County in Valparaiso.

### **Kozy Team**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

George Rodgers MS/HS

Teachers utilizing a team-teaching approach to help students learn better at George Rodgers MS/HS.

### **Lundquist CNG Race Team**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Hobart

This team set new standards in alternative fuel drag racing to encourage the National Hot Rod industry to embrace alternative fuel for racing cars...

11/30/2015

### **Portage Lakefront Park and Riverwalk**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Portage

The park is the first example of reclaiming an industrial brownfield for a magnificent lakefront park through the Marquette Plan involving multiple partners

### **Promote Summer Writing for Kids**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Portage

This team approach encouraged students to write during the summer months at Jones Elementary, Portage

### **Reading Specialists**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

South Haven Elementary School

South Haven

This utilizes a team approach in elementary grades helping parents to encourage children to read and write at South Haven Elementary School.

### **Structured Learning Staff**

Class of: 2008-2009

Structured Learning

Schererville

This team created a model site in Indiana to help children with autism through the West lake Special Education Cooperative in Schererville

### **Sucromalt Operations Team**

Class of: 2008-2009

Member

Cargill

11/30/2015

This team produced and supplied customers with commercial quantities of a “new-to-the-world” ingredient by modifying an existing unused facility at Cargill at a fraction of the cost of a Greenfield site

### **Team Community Healthcare System**

Class of: 2008-2009

Community Health Care System

Munster

Chanute Prize for Team Innovation

This team launched its “Breast Care: Same Day Results” project involving a fast-track system to advise patients of the results of their screening mammograms within the same visit and should a non-surgical biopsy be required, know the results the same day the test is performed.

### **Whiting Shared Services**

Class of: 2008-2009

Whiting

This involved the School City and the Civil City of Whiting combining resources and ideas through shared services agreements, creating a “win, win” for Whiting taxpayers.

### **Larry Alt**

Class of: 2007-2008

Member

Larry Alt & Associates

Merrillville

He led the creation of a device to control the time of illumination of billboards, paving the way for Profile Systems and new interactive technology. He also helped launch the TradeWinds Sign Shoppe.

### **Bala Arshangalpalli**

Class of: 2007-2008

Member

Indiana University Northwest

Gary

He led the effort to create a “trading floor” at IUN in the new life/sciences building. This was launched as an innovative teaching strategy.

**Mitch Barloga**

Class of: 2007-2008

Member

NIRPC

Portage

He led the Ped and Peddle initiative to develop and implement the first non-motorized plan for the Lake, Porter, and LaPorte County area.

**Shirley Caylor**

Class of: 2007-2008

Fellow

Crisis Center

Gary

This co-founder of the Crisis Center launched Teen Court, Safe Place, and other innovations that help youth in crisis.

**Pinaken Chaubal, Ph.D.**

Class of: 2007-2008

Member

ArcelorMittal

East Chicago

He initiated and led innovative projects at ArcelorMittal Global Research Center in East Chicago. This included improving blast furnace campaign life and energy efficiency.

**Howard Cohen, Ph.D.**

Class of: 2007-2008

Member

Chancellor, Purdue University Calumet

Hammond

His vision and collaborative work with faculty have resulted in experiential learning being approved as a graduation requirement for PUC students.

**Eugene Diamond**

Class of: 2007-2008

Member

CEO, Northern Indiana Region, SSFSS

11/30/2015

He encourages employees across five hospitals to be creative and innovative in improving patient outcomes.

**Roman Dziarski**

Class of: 2007-2008

Fellow

IU School of Medicine at IUN

Gary

This scientist led a team at the IU School of Medicine – Northwest that discovered over a 10-year period a new class of human proteins that can fight infection.

**Paul Hannah**

Class of: 2007-2008

Member

Gary

He is a pioneer in developing and applying a holistic psychiatric treatment system to patients in Northwest Indiana.

**Charles Hughes**

Class of: 2007-2008

Member

Executive Director, Gary Chamber of Commerce

Gary

His focus has been youth, helping prepare successful grant proposals for the “Midnight Basketball” and “No Workshops No Jumpshots” Programs in Gary.

**Judy Jacobi**

Class of: 2007-2008

Member

Purdue North Central

La Porte

She has created the popular outdoor sculpture series at Purdue University North Central. Her new ways of thinking about art has stimulated fresh ideas.

**Bill Keith**

Class of: 2007-2008

Fellow

Sunrise Solar, Inc

He invented and marketed the Sunrise Solar attic fan series in domestic and international markets, receiving a Lugar Energy Patriot Award.

**J. Christoph Lichtenfeld**

Class of: 2007-2008

Member

National Lakeshore

In restoring the historic Armo-Ferro House on the Indiana Lakeshore, he created a partnership with the Ironworkers Local #295 Apprenticeship Program.

**Ludmilla Ludkovsky**

Class of: 2007-2008

Member

Her innovative style of combining Russian folk music into a modern “New Age” genre features sola viola and violin. She has composed, published and recorded several CDs.

**Johnny Mathis, Jr.**

Class of: 2007-2008

Member

Valparaiso

He is the CEO and founder of this company that is the largest provider of “instant-on” streaming video technology for email, pop-up banners and websites.

**Stewart McMillan**

Class of: 2007-2008

Member

President, Task Force Tips

Valparaiso

He has led Task Force Tips through a series of innovations that has kept this company in the forefront of firefighting technology in the world.

11/30/2015

**Rev. Stephan K. Munsey**

Class of: 2007-2008

Member

He utilizes the arts to enrich messages during services. It is not uncommon for lions and eagles to visit the church, as well as ambulances motorcycles and rowboats.

**Ivan Nesch, Ph.D.**

Class of: 2007-2008

Fellow

Purdue Technology Center

He holds the exclusive license to Diffraction Enhanced Imaging, an advanced X-ray that can see structures that are difficult to image or invisible to a conventional system.

**Robert Palumbo, Ph.D.**

Class of: 2007-2008

Member

College of Engineering, Valparaiso University  
Valparaiso

This VU professor is an expert on the technological development and the use of concentrated sunlight to displace fossil fuels-based combustion for generating heat used in chemical reactions.

**Dave Parry**

Class of: 2007-2008

Member

Retired Big 10 Official,  
Michigan City

This official brought "instant replay" to the Big 10 to review the calls of officials. It spread to other conferences and now is the standard.

**Art Raby**

Class of: 2007-2008

Member

Realtor,  
Valparaiso

11/30/2015



He created and marketed “FindABuyerForMyHome,” giving homeowners a better way to sell their home.

**Shawn-Kristin Reynolds**

Class of: 2007-2008

Member

This 2004 graduate of Purdue University Calumet School of Nursing invented the S-Clamp as a safety measure for IV patients.

**Emerson Spartz**

Class of: 2007-2008

Fellow

Founder, Mugglenet.com

He is the founder of Mugglenet.com, the hugely popular web site about “Harry Potter.” His book – “What Will Happen in Harry Potter 7” made the New York bestseller list.

**Janice Tazbir**

Class of: 2007-2008

Member

College of Nursing, Purdue University Calumet

She is the recipient of the Outstanding Teaching Award at PUC using innovative teaching methods in conveying material to help students achieve success.

**Doug Tougaw, Ph.D.**

Class of: 2007-2008

Member

College of Engineering, Valparaiso University  
Valparaiso

This VU professor is a co-inventor of a new computer paradigm aimed at creating a new generation of computer chips. He also designed the region’s first Master of Engineering Management Degree.

**Dennis Trinkle, Ph.D.**

Class of: 2007-2008

11/30/2015

Member  
Valparaiso University  
Valparaiso

His innovative efforts for the Office of Information Technology won the CIO 100 Award for 2007 for Innovation.

**Julie Zasada**

Class of: 2007-2008  
Member  
Cedar Lake

The new Cedar Lake resident launched a non-profit startup to establish an interactive children's museum.

**Sisters of Saint Francis, Northern Indiana Region**

Class of: 2007-2008  
Hammond  
Chanute Prize for Team Innovation

Eugene Diamond, Regional President Chris Vanni, Regional Director of Performance

**Team Hammond Robotics**

Class of: 2007-2008  
Hammond  
Chanute Prize for Team Innovation

Sponsored by Bemcor Division of Beatty International Inc. In FIRST Competition William Beatty President, Beatty Bemcor, Hammond

**Traffic routing and Control Systems, Purdue Technology Center**

Class of: 2007-2008  
Crown Point  
Recognized for Innovation

Robert Wichlinski established TRACS to disperse better information rapidly about changing traffic conditions to decision-makers to help alleviate congestion in one of the nation's busiest corridors.

**Richard Barnes, Ph.D.**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

Hokey Spokes International

Gary

Dr. Barnes and his wife Carole offer a unique safety lighting system from the side for bicycles. The Eureka Trade Show in Brussels last year has declared Hokey Spokes one of the world's top innovations.

**Cal Bellamy**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

Partner, Krieg DeVault

His untiring commitment to Northwest Indiana and the support of entrepreneurship demonstrate leadership and willingness to tear down artificial borders and further the quality of life in the region.

**William Beatty**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

Beatty-Bemcor

He has sponsored and organized the Hammond Robotics Team to become the most successful team involving high school students in international robotics competition sponsored by FIRST for the past 11 years.

**Herb Bigelow**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

Behive Hangers

Hobart

He invented and is selling a new picture hanger now available in Walgreen Drug stores across the country

**Ed Charbonneau**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

Valparaiso

11/30/2015

Ed Charbonneau is changing the culture of government by helping government agencies establish a set of ethics.

**David Cieply**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

Wooden Pens by David Cieply

David is a 15-year old home-schooled student who creates pens sold in Northwest Indiana outlets and the United States Supreme Court Historical Society...

**Robert Cornwell, M.D.**

Class of: 2006-2007

Fellow

Munster

His passion for astronomy led him to create a consortium involving the Calumet Astronomical Society, Purdue University Calumet, and the Lake county parks working to establish a state-of-the-art observatory called the Calumet Astronomical Learning Center at the Buckley Homestead.

**Arie Donkersloot Sr.**

Class of: 2006-2007

Fellow

Donkersloot & Sons Marine  
Michigan City

His 15 patents include a telescoping dock system, an automatic eye-controlled flag pole, and the fork on motorcycles. He also rebuilt the Michigan City breakwater and marinas on our lakeshore.

**Diana Underwood-Gregg, Ph.D.**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

Purdue University Calumet  
Hammond

She has done ground-breaking research about how children learn mathematics and applied these practices to remedial mathematics education. She has received a National Science Foundation grant.

11/30/2015

**Brandon Griffin**

Class of: 2006-2007

Fellow

West Side High School

Gary

His interest in web design started as a hobby when he was 10 years old. By the age of 12, he had launched his web design business...

**Tom Gryzbek**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

Saint Margaret Mercy

Hammond

He founded the Volunteer Advocates for Seniors in partnership with the Lake Superior Court System – a model program to protect the health, well-being and safety of ill and at-risk senior citizens.

**Daniel Hayes**

Class of: 2006-2007

Fellow

Healthcall, Purdue Technology Center

Crown Point

He has launched an advanced patient monitoring system utilizing the telephone and the web for chronic disease management that provides better, more informed communication between patients and their health care providers

**Ken Jania**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

Sargent Electric Instrument Specialists

He has used his training and experience to bring new innovative control systems to Safety-Kleen, including radar wave phase separation. He also has taught for 5 years at the Lake County Joint Apprenticeship Training Center.

**Gayle Faulkner-Kosalko**

Class of: 2006-2007

Fellow

Retired Executive Director, Whiting Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce  
Whiting

Her creativity and organizational prowess has helped make Pierogifest a cultural icon in Northwest Indiana and a nationally recognized festival.

**Dr. Greg Ludkovsky**

Class of: 2006-2007

Fellow

ArcelorMittal

His 16 patents as chief technology officer have helped the steel industry and Mittal Steel remain competitive in a fiercely competitive industry.

**Kelly Manning**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

Starke County Youth Club, Inc  
Knox

She has spirited a rebirth of the club into all three school districts with after-school programs for over 1000 students.

**America L. McAlpin**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

Northwest Indiana Adult Guardianship Services  
Hammond

She has taken the lead in an organization focused on the prevention of cruelty and exploitation of incapacitation of adults and elderly.

**Mike McCloskey**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

Fair Oaks Farms

11/30/2015

Fair Oaks Farms is the first phase of a three-phase project on 600 acres to create a world-class destination in America as an agricultural theme park at Exit 220 off I-65.

**Gary Mitchell**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

CEO, Opportunity Enterprises

Valparaiso

He has helped shape this organization into one of the finest providers serving individuals of all abilities. Currently, OE provides services to over 1400 individuals based in Porter County.

**Kevin Nightengale**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

Arc Bridges

Gary

He was the first recipient of the National APSE Entrepreneurship Award. The award is presented by the Association for People in Supported Employment.

**Ross Pangere**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

The Ross Group

Gary

He and wife Patricia have received a number of awards for business success, including the Entrepreneurial Success of the Year Award by the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Northwest Indiana General Contractor of the Year Award.

**Joi Patterson, Ph.D.**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

Calumet College of St. Joseph

She helped launch the Transition-to-Teaching Certification Program, with over 200 second-career students going through the program, and most teaching in Northwest Indiana.

11/30/2015

**Don Powers**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

Developer,

Munster

He has employed creative subdivision design and development practices in Dyer and Munster, established Community Hospital and the acquisition of other hospitals, and furthered art through the Center for Visual and Performing Arts.

**Michael Schrage**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

CEO, Centier Bank

Merrillville

He is the fourth generation banker who has led the expansion and growth of Centier Bank, orHe helped develop a new technology called FreightMate, which allows truck trailers to be carried over railroad tracks without cars. He also volunteers his time for the Indiana High Speed Rail Association.iginally the First Bank of Whiting. He is also active in multiple civic organizations in Northwest Indiana.

**Roger Sims**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

Sims Professional Engineers

Highland

He helped develop a new technology called FreightMate, which allows truck trailers to be carried over railroad tracks without cars. He also volunteers his time for the Indiana High Speed Rail Association.

**Cong. Peter J. Visclosky**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

Marquette Greenway

He has launched the Marquette Greenway Plan recognizing that Lake Michigan is our most important regional asset and provided a long-term framework for ecological, economic and social rebirth of Northwest Indiana.

11/30/2015



**Mary L. Wellnitz**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

Figment Group

La Porte

She specializes in innovative practices to help employers, employees, and others benefit from a drug and alcohol-free workplace.

**Mark Wellensiek**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

Mittal Steel, U.S.A.

He is the manager of Cold Rolling Technology who utilized innovative ideas to reduce reprocessing of steel coils at Indiana Harbor that contributed to a 30% reduction in the requirement for unscheduled extra processing.

**Bill Wellman**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

Whiteco

Merrillville

Both at Whiteco and Profile Systems, along with the Lake County Convention & Visitors Bureau, he has "...demonstrated his courage, commitment and determination to embrace new ideas, support innovative solutions, and work tirelessly to better the region..."

**Bob Wichlinski**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

21st Century Systems & Township Trustee

He is the founder and managing partner of On-Site Computer, LLC creating 219.com. As Porter County Township Trustee, he propelled his township to the distinction of "Indiana Township of the Year."

**Linda Woloshansky**

Class of: 2006-2007

Member

President, Center of Workforce Innovations  
Valparaiso

She..."has been in the forefront of workforce innovations and promoting career education for students across Northwest Indiana. She is a visionary leader!"

**Panayotis Iatridis, M.D.**

Class of: 2005-2006

Fellow

Physician/Educator, IU Medical Center - Northwest  
Gary

He shaped innovative educational programs at the Northwest Medical Center at Indiana University Northwest for more than 20 years, including the development of Problem-Based Learning Curriculum.

**Christopher Klocek**

Class of: 2005-2006

Fellow

Magician,  
Lowell

This retired U.S. postal worker uses magic in education to teach literacy and has been entertaining and educating children and adults through the use of illusion for over 20 years.

**Richard L. Marrell**

Class of: 2005-2006

Fellow

Founder, RLM Tissue Bank Prosthetics  
Valparaiso

He launched RLM Tissue Bank Prosthetics, Valparaiso, and introduced eco-friendly, crematory-compatible donor reconstruction devices to the tissue transplantation community.

**Mark Spencer**

Class of: 2005-2006

Fellow

West Side High School

11/30/2015

Gary

He launched West Side Theatre Guild for the Gary School Corporation involving celebrities to touch the lives of thousands of Gary youth.

**Penny Yelkovic**

Class of: 2005-2006

Fellow

Flint Lake Elementary School  
Valparaiso

She inspired generations of children as a teacher at Flint Lake Elementary School, Valparaiso, whose students eight years later still call her the most influential teacher in their lives.

**Chenn Zhou, Ph.D.**

Class of: 2005-2006

Fellow

Scientist, Purdue University Calumet  
Hammond

This head of Purdue University Engineering was the first to pursue advanced computational fluid-dynamics modeling software to extend the life of blast furnaces in North America.