

JCIDC Quarterly

1st Quarter 2018

TOP 25...New Rankings Show Seymour now 21st in U.S.

For the 3rd straight year, Seymour has been ranked among the top micropolitans in the United States for economic strength, and in 2018 has been ranked in the top 25!

Each year, POLICOM Corporation ranks all Metropolitan and Micropolitan areas for "economic strength" which is the long-term tendency for an area to grow in both size and quality. Twenty-three economic factors are taken into consideration over a 20-year period to gauge improvement and current ranking.

As of January 1, 2018, there were 550 Micropolitan Statistical Areas in the United States, and Seymour is ranked 21st in the country according to the new ratings compiled in January. Seymour had made the top 100 in 2016 (93rd) for the first time since 2009, and had improved to 79th in 2017.

A Micropolitan area must have a city of at least 10,000 people but less than 50,000. Seymour-Jackson County continues to retain and draw industries to the area establishing a strong economy. A strong economy promotes a flourishing quality of life for all citizens of Seymour-Jackson County.

There are 21 other micropolitan areas in Indiana, and 383 Metropolitan areas in the U.S. including 15 in Indiana.

AISIN DRIVETRAIN, ALTERRA, CUMMINS, SILGAN ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR GROWTH

Aisin Drivetrain (ADI) announced plans in February to expand its Crothersville operations by investing more than \$16 million over the next three years and creating up to 47 new jobs by the end of 2018.

"Global companies like Aisin Drivetrain continue to find success in Indiana, and they provide good jobs for Hoosiers," Governor Eric J. Holcomb said.

ADI, which manufactures automotive components and systems such as industrial transmissions, commercial transmissions and power steering columns, appeared at the Crothersville Town Council meeting on February 6th to request tax abatement on Phase One of the expansion, totaling \$7 million. The expansion will accommodate design changes for steering columns and other automotive components being incorporated by its customers. The company will supply parts for vehicles such as the Toyota Avalon and Lexus ES.

"Aisin Drivetrain is proud to be a major contributor to the local Crothersville community, including Jackson County and Scott County, Indiana," said Scott Turpin, president of ADI. "ADI maintains a diverse, equal opportunity working environment to facilitate professional growth. ADI strives to provide a stable working environment for its employees and their families."

ADI employs more than 382 full-time Hoosier employees at its Crothersville facility with plans to complete hiring for manufacturing positions in August.

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation offered ADI up to \$425,000 in conditional tax credits based on the company's job creation plans, and the Town Council approved 10-year abatement on the new investment.

"We are pleased with this news and look forward to continuing to support, in any way we can, our industrial community," said Crothersville Town Council President Danieta Foster.

In late March, Silgan Plastics and Cummins appeared before the Seymour City Council to request abatement for new investment.

Silgan will spend \$2,154,323 for new equipment that is expected to add 8

(GROWTH Continued on page 2)



Michael Claycamp, Sarah Rollins and Sophie Kreis earn awards at the Innovate Within Competition

See story on page 3

NEW SUPPORTERS, CHANGES TO JCIDC BOARD

JCIDC is the recipient of funding from three new supporters, as well as an increased gift from an existing contributor, plus there is a new face on the JCIDC executive committee, it was reported at the group's annual board meeting in February.

Craig Luedeman, vice president of development, reported that FPBH, Inc., which acquired Wayman and Associates last year, will fund JCIDC at the Gold Level; GAI, an engineering company, will support JCIDC with a Silver Level gift; and CC ILL Holdings has gifted JCIDC at the Bronze Level. Luedeman also said that Schneck Medical Center has increased its yearly support of JCIDC and its Workforce Partnership.

FPBH was established in North Vernon in 1972, and is one of the state's top civil/survey consulting firms with a staff of 15 at the company's locations in North Vernon, New Castle and now

(SUPPORTERS Continued on page 2)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - 2017 in Review - *By Kevin Gabbard, JCIDC President*

Although it might sound like a broken record, I am pleased to report yet another outstanding year for JCIDC in 2017 as the economy in Jackson County and South Central Indiana remained strong! And, as we begin our 34th year of existence in 2018, I'm hopeful I will be able to report more of the same 12 months from now!

I start my annual report by noting JCIDC continued its heavy emphasis on workforce development last year. Unemployment rates remained low, which added to the importance of making sure industries had a pipeline of future workers. With Jackie Hill and Jody Deckard leading the efforts, JCIDC's Workforce Partnership teamed with the Jackson County Education Coalition to ensure various programs were funded and expanded.

The Partnership's work was critical, considering another strong year in industrial investment. Over \$60.92 million in new promised investment was made in 2017 from 11 projects. Those projects helped Jackson County reach an all-time high in industrial employment with companies reporting total employment of 10,327 (an increase of 328 from 2016). Likewise, manufacturing wages also grew to over \$57,000 on average (up from \$55,167 in 2016).

This industrial expansion has enabled Jackson County to continue its growth in relationship to other areas in the U.S. Last year, I reported one of the key indicators of this is the annual POLICOM Corporation's rankings of metropolitan and micropolitan areas.

In 2016 with 536 micropolitan areas (less than 50,000 population but with at least 1 city of 10,000 or more), Seymour was ranked 93rd in the nation for economic strength. Last year, there were 551 micropolitan areas, and Seymour climbed to 79th! And just as I was finishing this report on 2017, even better numbers came out as you'll note on Page 1!

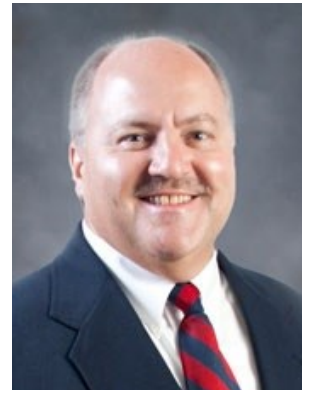
All of these successes are the result of an outstanding group of industries that have chosen to locate and grow in Jackson County. Supporting these industries have been our JCIDC Board of Directors and staff, which work to help create an environment where this growth can occur.

Among other highlights of the year was our annual "Reports, Reviews and Rewards" luncheon that featured Brian Burton, President and CEO of the Indiana Manufacturing Association. At the luncheon, we honored long-time industrial leaders Delbert Kilgas and Dick Elmore, plus recognized the investment in the future of our area by Jackson County REMC by beginning a \$20 million broadband project. Two available buildings at Seymour's East Side Park also found new users during the year, and Seymour officials welcomed a new corporate headquarters for Rose Acre Farms with a June ribbon-cutting.

JCIDC also sponsored the 3rd annual "Industry Showcase" at the Jackson County Fair, plus hosted an event to introduce IUPUC's new vice chancellor, Reinhold Hill to Jackson County business and industry leaders.

Jackson County also continued its strong involvement in the 10-county South Central Indiana regional marketing group, which sponsored and had members attend trade shows and events in Chicago, New York, Atlanta and Washington, DC, in addition to international events in Germany and France.

2017 was, indeed, another great year, and I am confident the success will continue given the support of our contributors, industries, Board and staff.



(SUPPORTERS Continued from page 1)

Seymour. The company purchased Wayman and Associates following the passing of Jim Wayman to "continue the traditions started by Bill Bateman in 1975 and carried on by Jim Wayman by maintaining continuity in preserving their work and archiving those historic documents," said FPBH CEO Dan Wright.

GAI, with offices in 11 states, and 3 offices in Indiana, was founded in 1958, and developed a strong professional reputation in foundation engineering by supporting the needs of nationally recognized industrial and energy clients. In the late 1960s, and in response to urban growth and mounting environmental regulations, GAI diversified into transportation and land development while adding niche services in survey, environmental studies, and cultural resources.

CC ILL Holdings owns over 500,000 square feet of industrial property in Seymour-Jackson County, including the properties that house Columbus Container at Freeman Field, and Alterra Plastics and Celadon at Seymour's East Side Park.

"We appreciate the support of these companies as well as 80-plus other contributors to JCIDC," said Luedeman. "They understand the importance of our work."

At the group's annual Board meeting, it was announced that Warren Forgey, CEO of Schneck Medical Center, will join the JCIDC executive committee as Secretary, joining Kevin Gabbard of MainSource Bank, President; Curt Kovener of Crothersville, Vice President; Marvin Veatch of Jackson County Bank, Treasurer; and Luedeman of the City of Seymour, VP of Development.

Also, two new board members were introduced: David Hall, representing the Jackson County Council replacing Leon Pottschmidt, and Katie Sackett, representing the Louisville Indiana Railroad Corporation and replacing Katie Elkins. At the March meeting of JCIDC, the group welcomed Jeff Lorenzo as a new board member to represent Seymour Industrial Corporation. Lorenzo replaces Fred Pollert as SIC representative.

(GROWTH Continued from page 1)

employees to its workforce and retain its existing 192 employees, while Cummins also plans to invest over \$2 million during 2018.

The abatement by Cummins was for \$580,000 in real property and \$1,516,400 in personal property, and the investment will help the company retain 735 workers.

Earlier in the quarter, Alterra Plastics announced it planned to double its workforce as the result of a new investment.

Alterra Plastics, a plastics company located at Seymour's East Side Park, will invest \$700,000 in new manufacturing equipment, that will result in the hiring of 18 new employees, bringing Alterra's total workforce in Seymour to 36, said company representative Peter Russo.

CLARIFICATION

In JCIDC's 4th quarter newsletter, the article discussing Dick Elmore and Delbert Kilgas receiving recognition during the annual Reports, Reviews and Rewards Luncheon stated "in 1967 Elmore and Kilgas founded Excel Tool, and 28 years later in 1995, Kilgas started Excel Manufacturing." Both Elmore and Kilgas were involved in the creation of Excel Manufacturing.

Brownstown Earns 2nd Place at Maverick Challenge Regionals Advances In The State Innovate WithIN Competition

Sophie Kreis and Sarah Rollins, Brownstown Central High School students, won the 7th annual Maverick Challenge county competition and went on to finish second at the regionals in Columbus. Their business plan, “Romantique”, earned them \$2,000 at the county level and an additional \$750 at the regional level. Placing second at the county level and also competing at the regionals were Destiny Mowdy and Arly Peters, BCHS students, with their business plan “Brewed Awakening”. They received \$1,500. Michael Claycamp, Trinity Lutheran High School student, with his business plan “Aquapon” finished third earning him \$1,250.

The Maverick Challenge is a high school business planning competition for high school students in Southern Indiana. The Maverick Challenge aims to further develop the innovative spirit of our region by reaching out to high school students and showing them viable career opportunities through entrepreneurship.

Seventeen teams involving 31 students from three schools in Jackson County competed in this year’s competition. The Maverick Challenge is a partnership between JCIDC Workforce Partnership and the Seymour and Brownstown Chambers of Commerce with additional funding partners of JCB, Old National Bank, MainSource Bank, and Peoples Bank.

Since the program launched in 2011, Jackson County students have been awarded \$43,850.

In addition to and in conjunction with the Maverick Challenge, Ball State University along with the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) is in its inaugural year hosting Innovate WithIN. The business pitch competition is open to all high school students in the state of Indiana who have an idea for a business, product, service, technology component, or other venture that helps identify Indiana as the place to start and grow a business. The competition consists of three rounds:

Round One – Video pitch and typed executive summary in February 2018

Round Two – Presentation in front of a panel of judges in each region (9 total regions in the state) March 5-17, 2018

Round Three – Finalists from each of the nine regions will present to a panel of experts in Indianapolis on April 9, 2018

Kreis and Rollins along with Claycamp submitted their Maverick Challenge business plans in the state competition making it through round one and recently competed in Region 2 (Southeast Indiana) at the Wilson Education Center in Charlestown in round two. Claycamp was announced the winner of Region 2 earning him \$1,000 but due to a prior commitment, will be unable to attend the state competition. As the second place winner, Kreis and Rollins will move on representing Region 2 at the state competition April 9th.

Winner of the Innovate WithIN will earn a prize package up to \$100,000 including a one year scholarship to any in state university; corporate internship, career mentoring services, and \$10,000 cash.

JCIDC Launches “Hire Me - Seymour-Jackson County, IN” Facebook Page

On March 1, 2018, JCIDC launched a Facebook page entitled, Hire Me – Seymour-Jackson County, IN. This page is only reserved for area employers to post open positions targeting individuals looking for employment - the high school graduate, college graduate, or someone willing to relocate to Jackson County.

The page currently has 394 followers averaging 13 new followers per day. Some posts have reached over 11K individuals as well as extended into 35 different countries. Every post on the Hire Me Facebook page is shared to the JCIDC Facebook page, JCIDC Twitter, JCIDC Instagram, & JCIDC LinkedIn accounts.

Facebook account holders are encouraged to like the Hire Me – Seymour-Jackson County, IN page and share the page with friends. Accounts with Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn can be followed and shared as well.

For more information, contact Jody Deckard at jodydeckard@jcidc.com.

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(Schneck Medical Center)
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Brownstown EDA
Brownstown Town Board
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HWC Engineering
Indiana-America Water
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Jackson County REMC
Jackson County Visitor Center
Louisville & Indiana Railroad
MainSource Bank
Medora Town Board
Old National Bank
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Seymour Aviation Authority
Seymour Chamber
Seymour Industrial Corp.
SIHO

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DEEM LLC
FPBH, Inc.
German American Bank
Peoples Bank
Royalty Companies
Runnebohm Construction
Seymour Tubing, Inc.
SpaceGuard
Vernon Township Trustee

Silver Level

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Dunlap Construction
Force Construction
GAI Consultants
Gaylor Electric
Goecker Construction
Harmon Construction
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Lannett
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Marmon Retail Products
Metronet

Silver continued...

Montgomery, Elsner and
Pardieck
Milestone
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Rumpke of Indiana
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Excel Tool
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