

JCIDC
QUARTERLY



Seymour
JACKSON COUNTY INDIANA
Jackson County Industrial Development Corporation

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LOCAL OFFICIALS AMONG INDIANA DELEGATION IN JAPAN

Seymour Mayor Matt Nicholson and JCIDC Executive Director Jim Plump were among an Indiana delegation that participated in a trade mission to Japan in early September.

Economic development and trade professionals as well as elected officials from Indiana, including the mayors of Columbus, Greensburg, Vincennes and Wabash in addition to Seymour, took part in the trip, which aimed to boost Indiana's relationships with Japanese companies that do business in the state.

Activities started in Tokyo with the 55th annual Joint Meeting of the Japan-Midwest U.S. Conference and continued with trips to Osaka and Nagoya. While in Osaka, the group attended the World Expo. Representatives from O&K hosted Nicholson and Plump in Osaka and at the World Expo, while meetings with Nippon Steel in Tokyo and AISIN in Nagoya also were held during the trip.

The delegation also took part in private Friends of Indiana receptions in Tokyo on Sept. 9 and in Nagoya on Sept. 11, which included Japanese business and national leadership. One of the sponsoring organizations for the receptions was the South Central Indiana Economic Development group, of which Jackson County is a founding member. In addition, there was support by Indiana Economic Development Corp. and Japan-America Society of Indiana.

"There are more than 300 Japan-related companies with operations in Indiana, including many throughout Jackson County and our 10-county regional area," Plump said. "We had very good discussions and also helped set the stage for next year's Midwest U.S.-Japan Conference, which will be hosted by Indiana."



(Clockwise, above left) Seymour Mayor Matt Nicholson poses with fellow Indiana mayors Joe Yochum (Vincennes), Josh Marsh (Greensburg) and Scott Long (Wabash); Jim Plump, JCIDC executive director, with Kanshiro Toyoda of AISIN; and Nicholson making remarks at the Friends of Indiana reception in Tokyo.

ADI, ACIN ANNOUNCE EXPANSIONS IN CROTHERSVILLE



New investment is coming to Crothersville, courtesy of the two AISIN companies located there.

At the Sept. 2 meeting of the Crothersville Town Council, tax abatements totaling nearly \$40 million for AISIN Drivetrain Inc. and AISIN Chemical Indiana LLC were approved. As a result of the investments, the two companies also plan to add 48 new jobs with the projects.

Jim Plump, executive director of JCIDC, made the request for abatements with numerous company representatives in attendance.

ADI's investment of \$35,890,000 is for new production equipment, and that expenditure was expected to begin by the end of September and continue through the end of 2026.

"Very likely, this is only the first investment announcement for the project, probably won't be the last, so this is an ongoing expansion," Plump said.

The project is expected to create 45 new positions paying just more than \$2.8 million in annual salaries and retention of the current workforce of 518 with a payroll of more than \$35 million.

ACIN's new investment in equipment will total \$3,233,229 and allow the company to add three new associates with combined salaries of \$198,000. The overall workforce produces annual payroll of more than \$6.2 million. The new investment is for a mixer, which will give ACIN three mixers capable of producing nearly 3.5 million gallons of material a year.

Wes Birdsong, finance manager for ADI, said the last round of tax abatements approved by the council covered electric water pump and e-Four electric rear axle products.

(SEE EXPANSIONS, PAGE 2)

• EXPANSIONS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

“That has been a huge change for our organization,” he told the council and was reported by The Tribune. “It’s brought profitability, and we’ve been able to attract and retain a very skilled labor force.”

Birdsong said the new investment will bring new business to ADI, including Mazda SKYACTIV-Drive automatic transmissions for the CX-50 and CX-30 SUVs.

Rob Crosser, executive vice president for ADI, distributed packets with information about the company, which manufactures electric rear axles, commercial automatic transmissions, electronic power steering columns, powershift transmissions and electric water pumps.

Josh Malancuk, president of JM Tax Advocates LLC, said ADI has stayed compliant with prior investments, and the company has “more than met” its capital expansion and “substantially exceeded” its job and wage commitments.

Crosser also shared how ADI has given back to the community and area organizations.

“Since our beginning, we’ve given over \$629,000 in charitable contributions and so far over \$20,000 this year,” he said.

Tim Carter, executive vice president of ACIN, said the company manufactures raw material-type products for sound-dampening material.

“That’s applied inside every car,” he said. “It goes underneath the carpet, and it stops the vibration from the road noise, your transmission, your engine, all that kind of stuff.”

ACIN was established in 2006 inside ADI and remained there until its own building opened in 2011. That has since expanded, and a second building was constructed. The products made at ACIN go in every Toyota, Nissan and Subaru produced in the United States, Carter said.

Council President Terry Richey and councilmen Jamy Greathouse and Chad Wilson all thanked the AISIN representatives for giving back to the community.

“I know that the school and the fire department, the town, everybody totally appreciates the contributions and the help,” Richey said. “When they reach out to AISIN, it’s always been easy to work with everybody and get that done.”

“We are very, very lucky,” Greathouse said. “We don’t have a large amount of industry, but the handful of companies that we do have here do a really, really good job of working with us and taking care of this community, so thank you very much.”

“Thank you for your involvement in the community,” Wilson told AISIN officials. “You guys have done a fantastic job out there, and I appreciate what you guys are doing for the community. I think I can speak on behalf of all of these (council members), too. We just appreciate you guys very much.”

AISIN

DEBAUN JOINS JCIDC BOARD

Tom DeBaun is the new Duke Energy representative on the JCIDC board of directors.

He is the company’s new government and community relations manager in southeast Indiana. In this role, he manages local government, business and community relationships and issues in Bartholomew, Dearborn, Decatur, Fayette, Franklin, Jackson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Rush and Union counties.



In addition, he oversees and coordinates local philanthropy in support of Duke Energy and the communities’ objectives.

DeBaun joined Duke Energy from TPMA, a consulting and management firm based in Indianapolis, where he served as the senior director of community and economic development.

Previously, he worked for the city of Shelbyville for more than two decades, first as the plan commission director and later as mayor for three terms.

CUBAN VISITS SEYMOUR



Businessman Mark Cuban, left, sits down for a chat with Guardian Bikes CEO Brian Riley during the Seymour company’s Supply Chain Independence Day celebration Aug. 21 at Jackson Live & Event Center in Seymour. Cuban is a key investor and advisor for Guardian Bikes, having secured a deal for the company on the TV show “Shark Tank” in 2017. Also during the recent event, Cuban toured the Guardian facilities in the Freeman Field Industrial Park and was joined by two others for a panel on American manufacturing.



MAVERICK CHALLENGE JACKSON COUNTY



Lance Gentry with Beatty Insurance, Dan Robison with the Jackson County Chamber and Jordan Richart with the Community Foundation of Jackson County listen to a Seymour High School student's business idea for the 2026 Maverick Challenge Jackson County.

LOCAL STUDENTS PITCH BUSINESS IDEAS

The 2026 Maverick Challenge Jackson County kickoff was held the week of Aug. 25 to 29. Presentations were made to four county schools.

The registration deadline was Sept. 10, and this school year, there are 48 teams with 74 students. Participating schools are Brownstown Central High School, Crothersville High School, Medora High School and Seymour High School.

From Sept. 29 to Oct. 1, students were given an opportunity to sit down with local business professionals to share their business idea.

Mentors for each team will be identified later in October, and they will work one-on-one with the teams November through January.

Again this year, the Maverick Challenge students will be invited to participate in Entrepreneur Week partnering with SPARK Jackson County. Sessions will be held Nov. 17 to 21.

Business plans and videos will be submitted by Feb. 6 and reviewed by judges, and the 10 finalists will compete in an oral competition March 4.

Maverick Challenge Jackson County is a partnership between Brownstown Ewing Main Street, Jackson County Chamber, JCIDC Workforce Partnership and Seymour Main Street with financial support provided by JCBank.

MFG DAY CELEBRATED



Four local companies — AISIN USA Mfg. Inc., Cummins Seymour Engine Plant, Guardian Bikes and Pet Supplies Plus — participated in the 2025 Jackson County MFG Day on Oct. 10.

More than 100 students from Brownstown Central, Crothersville, Medora and Seymour high schools gathered at Cummins in the morning for workshops led by employees of the participating companies. Then in the afternoon, the students broke into groups and visited one of the companies for lunch, a tour and activities.

This event was part of the initiative of the Manufacturing Institute, the workforce development and education affiliate of the National Association of Manufacturers.

Celebrated annually on the first Friday in October with events continuing throughout the month and beyond, MFG Day — Manufacturing Day — is a national grassroots movement that demonstrates the reality and future of modern manufacturing careers. Thousands of companies and educational institutions nationwide are invited to open their doors to students, parents, educators and community leaders.

MEET OUR INTERN: ELMER VICENTE



Seymour High School senior Elmer Vicente is part of the JCIDC staff this semester as an intern through the school's Work Based Learning program. Here's a Q&A with Elmer.

How did the opportunity come about? During my junior year, I knew I wanted to intern at a business-centered organization that didn't focus on accounting, so my options felt limited. I browsed JCIDC's social media and saw that they had an intern at the time, so I decided to take a shot at it. The connection with Jackie that came from the Maverick Challenge my sophomore year also helped.

What do you hope to learn and do? I hope to build as much experience as possible in a professional setting, work on social media and absorb as much wisdom as I can from the people around me as well as the board meetings.

What are you involved in at SHS? I've always been active in the school band. During my early years of high school, it felt like a form of therapy since music is something I think about a lot.

What do you like about SHS? The people. It's a diverse school, and the students are welcoming regardless of their background. There are people like me and others who are polar opposites. There's good in every person, and that's the highlight of the student body at SHS.

What are you involved with outside of school? I'm very active in my church, which is coincidentally located across the street from JCIDC and city hall. I've recently joined the board of directors for the church's youth organization.

What are your plans after high school? I plan to attend Indiana University in Bloomington to study marketing. I aspire to work on social media for professional sports teams or serve as an agent for artists, performers or athletes.

Favorites

- **Restaurant:** K-TOWN, with multiple spots in central Indiana
- **Food:** Burgers and tortas
- **Music:** I could talk about countless artists and multiple genres all day, but to keep it brief, some of my favorites are Radiohead, Daniel Caesar, A Tribe Called Quest, Clairo, Björk, and Kendrick Lamar.
- **Movie:** "The Incredibles," "Cars" and "Bolt"
- **Place to visit:** Guatemala as a whole and New York City
- **Sports teams:** Anything Indiana University, FC Barcelona, Indiana Pacers, Philadelphia Eagles
- **Hobbies:** Music and soccer

What's on your bucket list? Visit Barcelona, Spain; release my own music; have a one-off pro wrestling match; and visit every continent.

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JCIDC intern

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Brownstown Town Council
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Brownstown Central Community School Corp.
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