

STARKE COUNTY SPOTLIGHT



"Creating Opportunities... Delivering On Promises"
www.scedf.biz

Volume 1, Issue 2

September 2011

SCILL Center Hires Director and Looks to Expand Programs

Jerry Gurrado Assumes Director Position

The Starke County Initiative for Lifelong Learning (SCILL) has hired Jerry Gurrado as its new Director, and under his leadership, is looking towards increasing the programs being offered either through or in conjunction with the SCILL Center.

Gurrado is a native of Starke County, having graduated from Knox High School, and has spent a good deal of his working career as a teacher and coach, with his most recent employment being as a real estate agent in Whitley County. He assumed his new position with SCILL on July 1, 2011, and has since that time been talking with various community leaders and service providers about the needs of the Starke County community that might best be served by SCILL. The ultimate aim is to offer additional programming in the coming months.

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Executive Director and Vice President of Foundation Both Named to Who's Who in Indiana by Building Indiana Magazine

Weaver and Thalmann Selected

Starke County Economic Development Foundation Executive Director Charles W. Weaver and the Foundation's Vice President, Diane Thalmann, have both been honored by Building Indiana Magazine for inclusion in its 2011 "Who's Who in Indiana," as featured in the magazine's July/August issue. The honorees were chosen by both a nomination process from outside sources and internal discussions to identify key area leaders. Weaver was selected in the category of Business & Economic Development, while Thalmann was chosen in the category of Utilities.

Weaver has served as the Foundation's Executive Director since August of 2005, after a 34 year legal career in Starke County. He is a member of numerous local, regional, and state organizations, currently serving as the Chair of the Northwest Indiana Forum Economic Development Committee, as well as a member of the Managing Board of that group.

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SCILL was created in 1996 by the Foundation as a 501(c) (3) organization to assure employers that a qualified workforce would be available in Starke County. SCILL, managed by Ancilla College, and working in conjunction with area employers, provides a customized, innovative training program that meets the needs of area employers and employees.

SCILL also offers a high quality vocational education program in automotive technology. Serving ten area high schools, SCILL's two year ASE Certified program provides students with the training they need if they want to advance their education or enter the workforce.



UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

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|--------------|--|
| September 17 | Business Plan Writing Workshop . 1 st Session at Purdue Calumet Academic Learning Center in Crown Point from 9:00 . 12:00 |
| September 20 | Launch Your Own Business Workshop at Valparaiso from 6:00 . 8:00 pm |
| September 24 | Business Plan Writing Workshop . 2 nd Session from 9:00 . 12:00 in Crown Point |

More information is available on the NWSBDC website at

<http://www.isbdc.org/location/northwest-isbdc/>

Who's Who Nominations...Continued from page 1

Weaver is a member of the Society of Innovators in Northwest Indiana, and also was a recent recipient of the Starke County Chamber of Commerce's Henry F. Schricker Service Above Self Award.

Thalmann is a Manager in NIPSCO's Economic Development Department and has been a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors since 2006, currently serving as Vice President and Chair of the Marketing Committee. She has worked timelessly on behalf of the Foundation, being the impetus and overseer of the development of the Foundation's improved website which made its debut in December of 2009. Diane Thalmann was also recently honored as a recipient of one of 2011's Influential Women of Northwest Indiana.

Foundation Hosts Quarterly Manufacturer's Breakfast

NIPSCO Explains Commercial and Industrial Electric Incentive Program

The Starke County Economic Development Foundation recently hosted a quarterly Manufacturer's Breakfast, at which time representatives of NIPSCO and Franklin Energy Services LLC spoke about their new Commercial and Industrial Electric Incentive Program which allows commercial and industrial customers that are planning to upgrade or invest in a new energy efficient project to receive a rebate based on the amount of kilowatt hours estimated to be saved by the installation of such new equipment or systems. Approvable projects may include either retrofitting or replacement of existing equipment/systems. Additional information about this program, including a project approval application may be found at <http://www.nipsco.com/save-energy/commercial-industrial/commercial-industrial-incentive-existing.aspx>