

Be Noble

Noble County Economic Development



January 2, 2024

Happy New Year



From left: Teresa Gremaux, Jeremy Barron, Jacob Ihrie, and Josh Wentworth.



SuzAnne Handshoe (left) and Melanie Kellogg.

New year brings leadership changes at Be Noble

Kendallville Mayor SuzAnne Handshoe was recently gifted with flowers and an art piece marking the end of her 17 years of service as a member of the board of directors for Noble County economic development. Handshoe was recognized at the December 6, 2023 meeting of the board of directors of Be Noble Inc.

Handshoe has been an integral part of the leadership of Noble County Economic Development Corporation, then Be Noble Inc, since the organization's inception in 2006. She has served as a representative of Noble County's largest commercial and population center, the City of Kendallville, during her tenure. Handshoe opted not to run for re-election for office and retired at the end of 2023. Newly elected Mayor Lance Waters will fill Handshoe's seat on the Be Noble board.

The board of directors of Be Noble Inc. is comprised of 19 seats that provide representation of various sectors of the economy. At the December meeting, new officers were elected. They are Jeremy Barron, president; Teresa Gremaux, vice president; Jacob Ihrle, Treasurer; and Josh Wentworth, secretary. They represent, respectively, agriculture, K-12 education, the Town of Albion, and utilities.



Carlex in Ligonier leveraged the opportunity for free rebate funding from Indiana Michigan (I&M) Power in 2023. I&M's Custom and Prescriptive Rebate program is offered to current customers as an incentive to complete energy-saving projects. Learn more by contacting Steve Holloway at stephen.holloway@cleareresult.com or (260) 202-2895.

Career Fair Week at Trine

The Trine University Career Center will host a Spring Career Fair Week on February 13, 14, and 15. This 3-day event will be organized by majors, allowing employers to recruit specific majors on designated days.



Employers are encouraged to sign up for one or more days based on their needs. While students will be encouraged to attend on their major-specific day, they are welcome to attend any or all days if they wish. To participate, sign up for each day you plan to attend. Links to Registrations- [Civil and Mechanical Engineering day](#), [Engineering \(other than Civil\) and Business](#), [Social Services and Health](#) or sign up on Handshake. Questions may be directed to Amy Miller at millera1@trine.edu or (260) 665-4274.

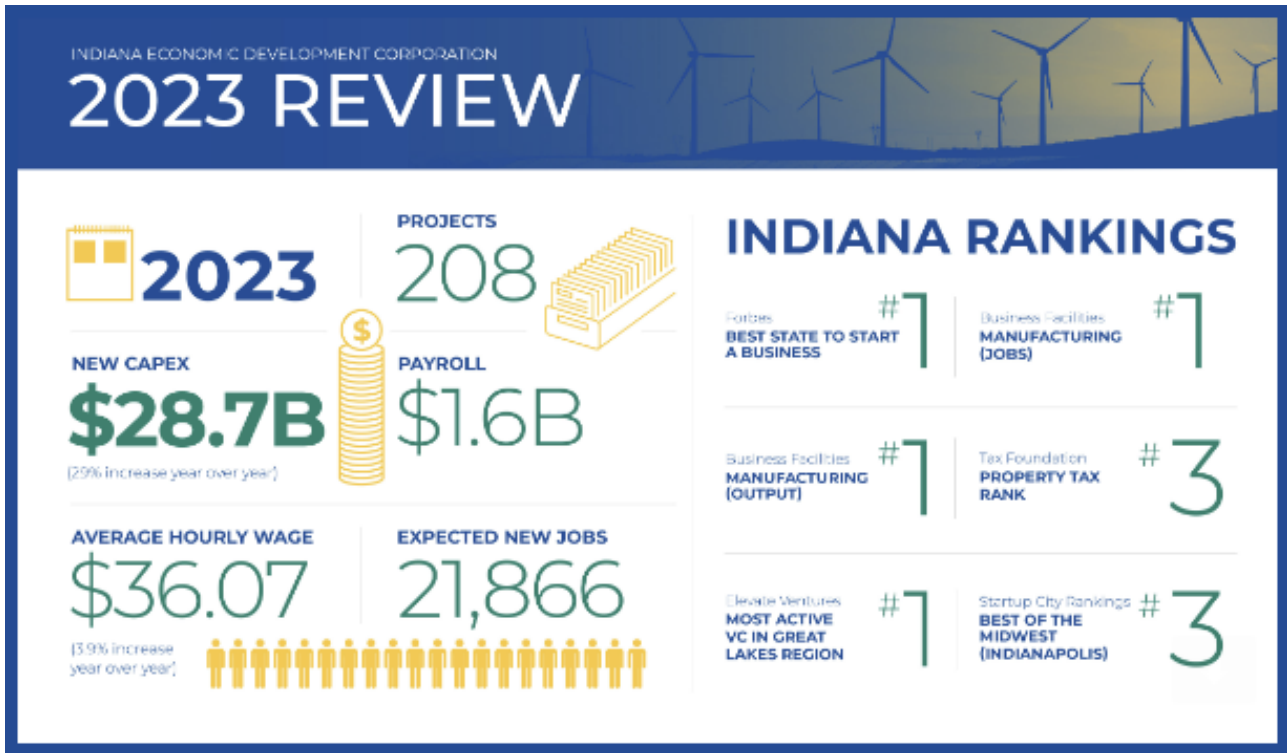


County expands its "share" to help more families pay for child care

Employers buy-in to the region's first [Tri-Share Program](#), aimed at helping working parents secure affordable child care, has proven difficult. Thrive by 5 coordinator Jenna Anderson recently explained this difficulty to Noble County Commissioners and asked them to consider

expanding their contribution to the program so that parents who work for non-participating employers may receive more funding to help cover the costs of child care. The commissioners' decision to support the request effectively expands the county's share of child care costs from one-third to two-thirds for qualifying parents. Employers are

encouraged to learn more by contacting Anderson at (260) 445-3369 or email jenna@noblethriveby5.org.



Graphic provided by IEDC

IEDC touts record-breaking year

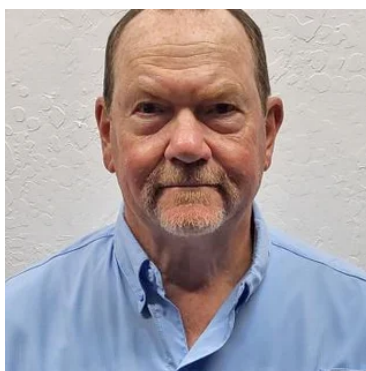
Outpacing an historic two-year period for investments in Hoosier residents and communities, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) has announced a record-shattering \$28.7 billion committed to capital expenditures in Indiana in 2023. Hourly wages for Hoosier workers also hit an all-time high, at an average of \$36.07 per hour. Elevate Ventures, a venture capital partner assisting entrepreneurs and small businesses, partnered with IEDC to create the fifteenth most active venture capitalist organization in the world. 2023 also proved a banner year for foreign direct investment in Indiana.



[Learn more](#)

Invest in Noble County!

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Bob Shuherk



Shuherk appointed SCORE vice chair

Three long-time members of SCORE Northeast Indiana have stepped forward from the ranks of the organization's volunteers to take on leadership responsibilities.

Steve Rinehart, interim chair of the Fort Wayne-based SCORE chapter, has announced that Linda Smith will become the chapter's co-chair, effective immediately. Following a transition period alongside Rinehart, Smith will assume the role of chair. She will be assisted by newly appointed vice chairs Bob Shuherk, who now heads the organization's Kendallville office, and Mark Dobson, who has led SCORE's office in Warsaw.



HOUSING COALITION of Noble County

HIGHLIGHTS

Housing for those in recovery coming to Kendallville

A project of Inspiration Ministries, Inc. to develop a National Alliance for Recovery Residences Level 2 Certified Recovery Home is coming to Main Street in Kendallville. Indiana's Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) has awarded \$750,000 to the City of Kendallville as a match to move the project forward, leveraging nearly \$700,000 in private local match, plus \$10,000 in public funds from the city's National Opioid Settlement Fund. The transitional recovery facility will provide a total of 13 beds for alumni who have successfully completed their Inspiration Recovery Program. OCRA funding is made possible by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grants. Renovations will be made to the second and third floors of the building at 112 S Main Street to create residential housing units.



A Christmastime decorating competition culminated in "It's a Wonderful Night" at the Community Learning Center (CLC) in Kendallville in December. The evening auction netted nearly \$10,000 to support local charities who participated in the opportunity to custom-design decorations on trees and wreaths that were on display for weeks leading up to the event. An additional \$5,525 was raised through dollars for votes. Around 30 Noble County organizations participated in the event, made possible by the CLC's Performing Arts Committee and other volunteers.

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