

DUBOIS STRONG

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [Existing Business Committee](#)
- [Digital Inclusion Plan](#)
- [Business Attraction Committee](#)
- [Dubois County Entrepreneurs and Innovators Committee](#)
- [Workforce Attraction Incentives Committee](#)
- [Marketing Committee](#)
- [Mid-States Corridor](#)
- [Enterprise Loan Fund](#)
- [Training & Development Committee](#)
- [Housing Update](#)
- [Thank you investors!](#)
- [Thank you, 2020 Board Members!](#)

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Our mission is to maximize our resources and assets to foster economic growth in Dubois County.

Existing Business Committee



The Existing Business Committee has been meeting to determine a plan for supporting existing businesses from the objectives and strategies from the new Dubois Strong Strategic Plan.

They are currently reviewing the results from the Wage + Benefits Survey completed by Radius Indiana.

Digital Inclusion Plan



Regional Opportunity Initiatives (ROI) opened a new chance to

address rural broadband and connectivity challenges through a digital inclusion planning initiative in 2020. ROI and the Purdue Center for Regional Development (PCRD) are working with each county to develop a county plan which will form a broader regional plan.

A county digital inclusion survey was conducted in 2020 from late October through early November. PCRD compiled the data from the survey responses and will provide analysis for each ROI county. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the survey data.

A community meeting was held on May 17, 2021. Now the committee will work to implement the community input into priorities and strategies.

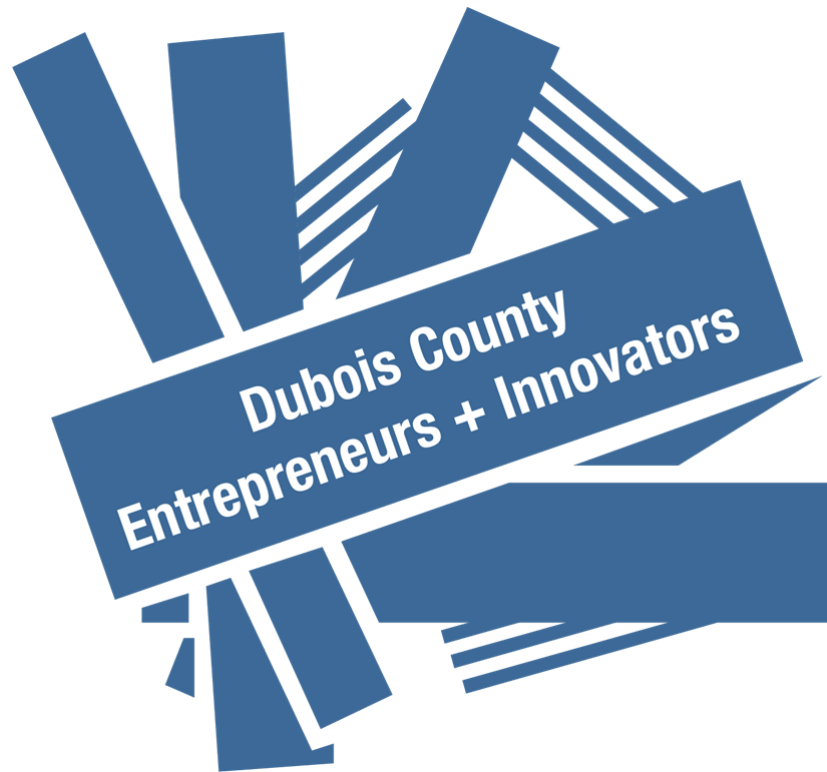
Business Attraction Committee



The Business Attraction Committee met on April 27 at 10:30 am. Dubois Strong (DS) staff reviewed with the committee two Requests for Information (RFI) from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) and the project process we follow. Dubois Strong collaborated with Travis McQueen, Huntingburg Airport Director to submit an RFI response for Project Icarus. It was a building/hangar search for large scale aerospace and defense related design and manufacturing facility. Next steps for the business attraction committee include the completion of the Strategic Site Inventory questionnaire and scheduling the three-hour site review meeting with the consulting group hired by IEDC.

The committee is also discussing a variety of topics including: IEDC/IEDA Strategic Site Identification program, the Mobel property drone flyover video which is a current project funded by Dubois REC and Hoosier Energy. The [drone video](#) features: aerial video of the 72-acre property, boundary graphics, the location of the water, natural gas and wastewater lines. There was a brief discussion about the future construction of a spec/shell building.

Dubois County Entrepreneurs and Innovators Committee



Dubois County Entrepreneurs and Innovators Committee is a newly formed group dedicated to the entrepreneur support and development, including mentoring resources. Committee members include: Jasper Chamber, Dubois County Chamber, Elevate Ventures, Gamerized, LLC; the Indiana Small Business Development Center (ISBDC), Dubois Strong, Radius Indiana, Mayor Vonderheide, and journalists Kathy Tretter and Matt Crane.

DC Entrepreneurs and Innovators committee is hosting a networking event on June 17 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Thyen Clark Cultural Center. Questions? Contact Jasper Chamber: 812-482-6866 chamber@jasperin.org or Dubois County Chamber: 812-827-4095 duboiscountychamberofcommerce@gmail.com

Workforce Attraction Incentives Committee



Dubois Strong is partnering with TMap, a digital workforce talent search firm, and Radius Indiana regional group to create a talent attraction strategy. The main focus is to how best promote the region and Dubois County to attract workforce talent. The participant relocation application, agreement, and a frequently asked questions document are completed. With a budget of \$55,000 will allow us to potentially attract eleven new residents via \$5,000 grants. Ruger Kerstiens, Cale Knies and Melanie Powell volunteered to serve on the applicant review committee.

Marketing Committee



The key objectives for the Marketing Committee are creating an effective ongoing marketing campaign and communicating the collective assets of Dubois County.

This is currently being achieved through a Facebook campaign shared by local organizations. The next steps are to expand our reach and marketing materials.

Mid-States Corridor



The Mid-States Corridor Project Team expects to identify a preferred corridor for the improved highway connection in southern Indiana later this year. [CLICK HERE](#) for an updated project schedule.

The Mid-States Corridor Project Office has reopened by appointment only. Email or call to schedule an appointment. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

More project information can be found online at www.midstatescorridor.com.

Enterprise Loan Fund



Do you know someone considering starting a small business Dubois Strong Enterprise Loan Fund (ELF. Dubois Strong Enterprise Loan Fund makes loans for small business start-ups and existing businesses. Our loan activity in 2020 was included twelve, \$5000 COVID -19 Emergency Loans.

Eligibility for the loan program is limited to businesses located within Dubois County. We can provide loan qualification information. [Digital and hard copy applications are available](#). Let us help you launch your small business or help your existing business buy the new

machine or equipment you need. Contact us at:

ecole@duboisstrong.com

Training & Development Committee



The Jasper Chamber of Commerce convened a ribbon cutting on April 12 to celebrate the begin of the first **Catapult manufacturing skills training class at VUJ**. WorkOne Southwest, Conexus, Radius Indiana, Dubois County Community Foundation, Dubois Strong, Grow Dubois County, Indiana Furniture, Kimball Electronics, Jasper Engine and Transmissions, Farbest Foods, OFS, and MasterBrand Cabinets, partnered to launch the training. Eight students started the first cohort and seven completed the training. A course graduation ceremony was held on May 7. Below is additional details about the training.

- **Four-week program**
- 40 hours a week
- Maximum enrollment is 15 cohort
- Training pay back \$12.00 an hour
- **Target / Net New Employee Pipeline**
- Unemployed / underemployed
- Workforce
- Industry referrals
- JAG high school students
- High school equivalency
- Current employees / professional development
- Justice involved population

The beginning of this program is important step to fulfilling the ongoing need for manufacturing production workers in Dubois County. VUJ and WorkOne are busy recruiting candidates for the next training cohort.

Housing Update



[CLICK HERE](#) to see the current status of known housing projects in Dubois County.

Thank you investors!



Current Dubois Strong Public & Private Investors

Diamond Investors

- Dubois REC
- German American Bank
- Jasper Engines & Transmissions
- Kimball Electronics
- Kimball International
- Memorial Hospital & Health Care Center
- Meyer Distributing
- OFS
- Springs Valley Bank & Trust

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Boxer Girl Inc.
Cash Waggoner & Associates
Cave Quarries, Inc. / Knies Construction
Cooper Contracting
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Dubois County Community Foundation
Ferdinand Farmers Insurance
Freedom Bank
Hopf Equipment
Indiana Furniture
Indiana Municipal Power Agency
Industrial Woodkraft
International Paper
Jasper Rubber
Kerstiens Homes & Design
Krempp Construction/Lumber
Kunkel Insurance Agency
Lochmueller Group
Matrix Integration
Midwestern Engineers, Inc.
National Energy Control Services, Inc. (NECS)
NSWC Crane – Moved to Silver
Ohio Valley Gas
PSC
Premier Property Management
Regional Opportunity Initiatives, Inc.
River Centre, LLC
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Stens / Arrowhead Engineered Products
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Superior Ag Resources
UB Klem
Uebelhor & Sons, Inc.
Universal Design
Visit Dubois County

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Azura Café & Grill

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Buechlein & Associates
Buschkoetter's Nursery, Lawn & Garden Center
Carpet Warehouse
Century 21 Schroering Realty
Dubois County Airport Authority at Huntingburg Airport
Dubois County Block & Brick
Dubois County Tire & Supply
Dubois-Pike FCU
Eck Mundy
Englert's Auto Service & Collision Center
Finishing Touches
Fischer Electric
Giesler Dental
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Huntingburg Machine Works
Jagoe Homes
Jasper Chamber of Commerce
Keith Fritz Fine Furniture
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Messmer Mechanical
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Patoka Insurance Center
Primerica Financial Services / Jeffrey Bounds
REMAX Local – Phil Ahrens
RideTech
Schmutzler Agency Inc.
Sell4Free Welsh Realty – Gary & Marcia Schnell
Seng & Seng CPA
Siebert Consulting
Sisters of St. Benedict
Solutions by Hamilton
St. Benedict's Brew Works
Stac Material Handling Inc
State Farm Insurance - Debbie Allen
Steinkamp Home Center
Sternberg Riverfront Properties
Streicher Construction
Superior BES
TDI Brands
The Mortgage Company of Southern Indiana – Darren Patterson
The Servants Inc.
Touch of Class
TRI-CAP
Uebelhor and Son Insurance
Uebelhor Developments
Wagner Family Dental
Wagon Works Apartments
Webb Wheel
Weyer Electric
Williams Bros. Health Care Pharmacy
Young Men's Institute #497 (YMI)

Dubois Strong Public Investors

City of Huntingburg
City of Jasper
Dubois County
Town of Birdseye
Town of Ferdinand
Town of Holland

Dubois Strong Partners

Dubois County Soil & Water Conservation
Hoosier Energy
Hub19
Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission
Indiana Economic Development Association
Indiana Economic Development Corporation
Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority
Indiana Municipal Power Agency
Latino Collaboration Table
Office of Community Rural Affairs
Patoka Valley Career & Technical Cooperative
Purdue CES Education, Dubois County
Purdue Technical Assistance Program
Radius | Indiana
Southwest Indiana Development Council
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Vincennes University Jasper
WorkOne Southwest

Thank you, 2020 Board Members!



Public Representatives

Elmer Brames - Dubois County Board of Commissioners
Mike Kluesner - Dubois County Council
Mayor Dean Vonderheide - City of Jasper
Mayor Steve Schwingamer - City of Huntingburg
Ken Sicard - Town of Ferdinand
Tom Thacker - Town of Holland
Mary Ann Cummings - Town of Birdseye

Private Representatives

Dan Conway - Best Home Furnishings
Christian Blome - Vincennes University, Jasper
Scott Denhart - MasterBrand Cabinets
Allison Menke - OFS
Kyle Chase - Seufert Construction
Jay Baker, German American Bank
Lonnie Nicholson - Kimball International
Matt Weinzapfel - Jasper Engines & Transmissions
Melanie Powell - Memorial Hospital & Healthcare Center
Joe Henson - Dubois REC
Barry Day - Superior Ag Resources
Nancy Eckerle - Jasper Chamber of Commerce
Whitney Lubbers - Visit Dubois County
Evelyn Rivas - ALASI Group
Jamie Shinabarger - Springs Valley Bank & Trust
Jane Betz - Smithville Communications
Sue Habig - Kimball Electronics
Nick Stevens - Old National Bank
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Matt Werner - Stac Material Handling
TBD – Dubois County Chamber of Commerce

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