

DUBOIS STRONG™

2023 End of Year Digest



Thank you to Dubois REC for sponsoring our December 2023 Newsletter!



Please consider [investing](#) in Dubois Strong in 2024.

Investment Campaign

Our 2024 Investment Campaign begins in January. As a public-private partnership, half of our economic development funding comes from community-minded businesses and organizations like yours. See a full list of our investors on our [website](#).



Relocation Impact Grants

We've awarded two new Dubois County Relocation Impact Grants in the last couple of months! Read about the [Hayes family](#) and the [Sitzman family](#) and their moves back to Dubois County.



Enterprise Loan Fund

Did you know that Dubois Strong supports current and prospective small business owners with gap financing?

The Enterprise Loan Fund is a program designed to support both retention and expansion of existing business, as well as creation of new business opportunities in Dubois County by providing three basic loan types. Find out more about the ELF by Dubois Strong [here](#).



Housing

RDG Planning & Design completed the Dubois County Housing Study last month. The full study will be released after the new year. For some data on affordable housing in Dubois County, please visit this [link](#) -- and stay tuned for the housing study in January 2024.



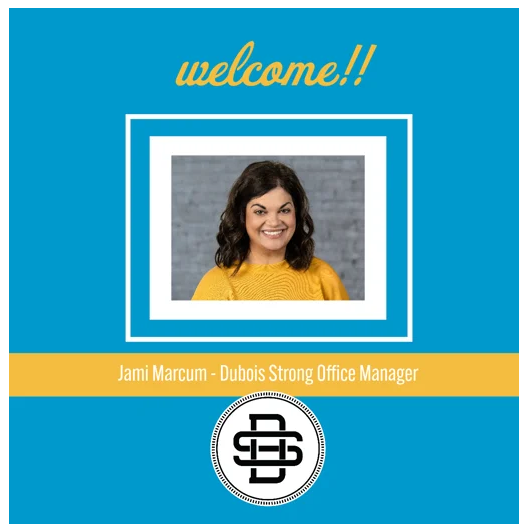
DCE&I

The Dubois County Entrepreneurs and Innovators met twice in 2023, Our local co-working spaces were incorporated into the events ([Livewire](#) in Jasper and [Current Blend](#) in Huntingburg). Both meetings were focused on services available in our communities to start and grow small businesses. Thank you to sponsors, speakers, and partners!



Retirement

Brenda Heeke retired this fall as the DS Office Manager after nearly 12 years. We are so grateful for all she's done and will greatly miss her planning skills, spreadsheet prowess, and sense of humor in our office. Thank you, Brenda, for your years of work. We hope you get lots of time with your grandkids, your bicycle, and your yoga mat!



New Hire

Welcome to Jami Marcum -- our new Office Manager! Jami previously ran the after school child care program at the YMCA for 8 years. Most recently, Jami was the Office Manager at Holland Dentistry. Outside of her new role with us, Jami is a mom to Ethan and wife to Dave, a big Avett Brothers fan, and a hobby baker of delicious desserts. Welcome to the team, Jami! We are so glad to have you!



Holidays

We'll be closed up for a few days in observance of the Christmas and New Year's Holidays.

- 🎄 Friday, December 22nd
- 🎄 Monday, December 25th
- ✨ Friday, December 29th
- ✨ Monday, January 1st



Tour of Opportunity

[VU Jasper](#) in partnership with Dubois County industry partners, Dubois County school districts, Dubois Strong, and Patoka Valley Career and Technical Cooperative took part in the Tour of Opportunity in October -- providing 593 high school freshmen with a first-hand exploration of career opportunities in the county during the daylong event.



In The News

Our own Ed Cole, Dubois Strong President, sat down with the [Dubois County Herald](#) to talk about our workforce attraction partnership with [Radius Indiana](#) and [Dubois County Community Foundation](#). You can read more via this [link](#).



CTIM Challenge

On Nov 8th, area high school students competed in hands-on activities showcasing manufacturing skills and learning about the manufacturing industry during the VU Jasper CTIM Challenge. You can read more about the CTIM Challenge in the link below:

[VU Jasper Hosts Annual CTIM Challenge for High School Students](#)



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