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RIVERSIDE CAPITAL MANAGEMENT GROUP

NEW MEMBER PROFILES: MARION EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

www.evansvilleregion.com



Dear Community Members,

I am delighted to share some significant news regarding the future leadership of the Evansville Regional Economic Partnership (E-REP). After nearly six years of serving as CEO, I am preparing to step into retirement in 2024, and I couldn't be more thrilled about the next chapter for our organization.

It is with great pleasure that I announce the appointment of Lloyd Winnecke as the next Chief Executive Officer of E-REP, effective January 8, 2024. Lloyd's dedication to the Evansville Region and his extensive experience in public service uniquely position him to lead E-REP into a new era of economic growth.

Lloyd's impressive track record, including his 12 years as mayor, demonstrates his unwavering commitment to enhancing our community's quality of life. He has been instrumental in numerous collaborative projects that have had a positive impact on our city, such as the Lloyd Expressway and U.S. 41 interchange and the Deaconess Aquatic Center. His ability to align public and private sector priorities has been key to these successes.

I have had the privilege of working closely with Lloyd over the years, and I am confident that he is the right leader to continue the

important work of moving the Evansville Region forward. His familiarity with E-REP's strategic plan and dedication to our mission will undoubtedly take our region to new heights.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you who have supported E-REP during my tenure. Your dedication to our community and your commitment to economic growth have been truly inspiring. While I look forward to my retirement, I will will assist with the seamless transition of leadership to Lloyd to ensure E-REP's continued success.

As Lloyd takes the helm, I have no doubt that E-REP will continue to thrive, and our region will benefit from his exceptional leadership. Thank you for being part of this remarkable journey, and please join me in welcoming Lloyd Winnecke as the incoming CEO of the Evansville Regional Economic Partnership.

e looks good on you,

Jan E Baus)

TARA BARNEY
CEO, E-REP

#elooksgoodonyou

f y in @ • @evvregion

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LEARN MORE AT: EVANSVILLEREGION.COM

EVANSVILLE REGIONAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



The Signature Investors are the voice of business in the Evansville Region.
This select group of Evansville Regional Economic Partnership (E-REP) Stakeholders guides E-REP's mission and priorities, its affiliates and its lines of work. It drives the Region's greatest opportunities for progress and addresses significant community challenges.

Above all, this leadership investment affords E-REP the capacity to employ and retain a high-quality staff to execute the work of the organization and to ensure that it has sufficient resources to provide leadership for the Region's greatest opportunities.

THANK YOU!











EVANSVILLE REGIONAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE













Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month in the Evansville Region:

Embracing Diversity & Culture

we usher in a special time of year – Hispanic Heritage across the United States come together to celebrate the rich tapestry of Hispanic culture, traditions and contributions. This month provides a unique opportunity to honor the vibrant Hispanic community that plays an integral role in the region's cultural mosaic.

Cultural Festivals and Events

During Hispanic Heritage Month, Evansville comes alive with a myriad of events and celebrations that showcase the richness of Hispanic culture. The local community organizes vibrant festivals, music performances, art exhibitions and culinary experiences that allow residents to immerse themselves in the traditions of countries like Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba and many others.

One such event is Fiesta Evansville, an annual celebration of Hispanic culture that draws attendees from all walks of life. This festival transforms Wesselman Park into a lively spectacle of color, music and dance, offering a taste of the diverse cultures that comprise the Hispanic diaspora. From traditional dances like salsa and bachata to mouthwatering delicacies like empanadas and tamales, Fiesta Evansville provides a unique opportunity for residents to connect with the local Hispanic community.

Education and Awareness

Beyond the festivities, Hispanic Heritage Month in Evansville serves as a platform for education and cultural exchange. Local schools, libraries and community centers often host workshops, lectures and presentations that shed light on the historical, social and artistic aspects of Hispanic heritage. These events not only promote a deeper understanding of the culture but also foster a sense of unity and appreciation among community members.

One event is Exploring Ofrendas & Día de los Muertos hosted by the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library. At this event, participants will learn about creating Ofrendas to honor their loved ones for Día de los Muertos. The class will explain the different pieces commonly included and how to make this tradition personalized for your family.

Business and Economic Impact

The Hispanic community in the Evansville Region has not only enriched the cultural fabric but has also played a vital role in the region's economic development. Hispanic-owned businesses have flourished, contributing to the city's economic diversity and vitality. These enterprises span across various industries, including restaurants, retail, construction and professional services. By supporting these businesses, the community not only celebrates Hispanic heritage but also bolsters the local economy.

Hispanic Heritage Month in the Evansville Region is a time of celebration, learning and unity. It serves as a reminder of the strength that arises from embracing diversity and the profound contributions made by the Hispanic community to the region. As we revel in the colorful festivities and educational events, let us also recognize the importance of continued support and inclusion for all members of this vibrant community. Together, we can build a stronger, more connected region that truly embodies the spirit of diversity and cultural appreciation.

National Hispanic Heritage Month 2023 Marks Historic Time for Hispanic Entrepreneurs

By U.S. Small Business Administration

spanic and Latino Americans have contributed greatly to countless aspects of our nation's culture, including business. The historic numbers tell the story: According to the Joint Economic Committee Hispanic Entrepreneurship and Business Brief, the nearly 5 million Hispanic-owned businesses across the U.S. generate more than \$800 billion for the American economy annually. Nearly one in four new businesses is Hispanic-owned, and those businesses are making huge impacts in their communities and beyond. Just look at U.S. Navy veteran and former California Small Business Person of the Year, Hernán Luis y Prado. Thanks to SBA loans and federal contracting opportunities, Hernán has been able to start and grow VetPowered, LLC, an advanced manufacturing company that helps veterans and service members transition to the workforce after their military careers.

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15 - October 15, support the small businesses in your local area while taking advantage of SBA's resources to help turn your ideas into big-time success stories.

Local Assistance: The SBA teams up with organizations around the country to provide free and low-cost services. Resource partners such as Small Business Development Centers, Women's Business Centers, Veterans Business Outreach Centers and Community Navigators help entrepreneurs, including those in underrepresented and underserved communities, access training, counseling, funding and more. There is also the Hispanic Business Owners Hub of SCORE business mentors.

Funding: A variety of financial resources are available for Hispanic and Latino entrepreneurs looking to acquire the capital they need to start, grow and expand their businesses. In fact, fiscal year 2022 was a historic year for lending in traditionally underserved communities. More than \$72 million in lending was provided to minority-owned businesses across the SBA's 7(a), 504, and microloan programs. Use our Lender Match tool to get matched with an SBA-approved lender today.

Contracting Opportunities: Did you know that an all-time high of federal contract dollars was awarded to small businesses in the last fiscal year? The federal government exceeded its goal by 3.5%, marking a historic expansion of access to contracting. Learn more about SBA's resources and programs to help you contract with the federal government.

Learning Platform: Owning a business is a learning process, even for seasoned entrepreneurs. That is why the SBA offers free online courses through its Learning Center. Topics include how to write a business plan, social media marketing and more. Visit sba.gov/learning to see if there's a topic that supports your small business needs.

The SBA is proud to celebrate the legacy of Hispanic business ownership in America. For more information, visit sba.gov. Para una versión en español de nuestro sitio web, visite sba.gov/es.



Evansville Region Prepares to Compete for READI 2.0 Quality of Place Funding

he Evansville Regional Economic Partnership (E-REP) announces its enthusiastic participation in the recently unveiled Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative 2.0 (READI 2.0) program. This groundbreaking initiative, introduced by Gov. Eric Holcomb, promises an additional \$500 million in funding for quality of place projects across the state of Indiana.

The READI 2.0 program builds upon the success of its predecessor, READI 1.0. In READI 1.0 the Evansville Region was awarded \$50 million which has already supported over 20 transformative projects in our region, from workforce housing in Gibson County to a riverfront strategic plan that spans Warrick, Vanderburgh and Posey counties. This new wave of funding will allow our region to continue building a stronger and more resilient community.

E-REP CEO Tara Barney stated, "We are deeply grateful for Gov. Holcomb's continued dedication to economic development in Indiana. READI 2.0 offers us the chance to not only enhance our region's quality of place but also to position the Evansville Region as a destination for talent, innovation and economic growth."

The READI 2.0 program presents a unique opportunity for our community to tackle challenges, seize opportunities, and enhance the overall appeal of Evansville and the surrounding region.



READI 2.0 TIMELINE & INFORMATION:

- September 2023 February 2024: Regions develop funding proposals building on the goals in the applications submitted in 2021 during READI 1.0.
- September 2023 February 2024: Indiana Economic Development Corp. (IEDC) visits each participating region to see READI 1.0 investments and discuss continued vision and strategy.
- December 2023: O4 IEDC READI Forum.
- February 16, 2024: Regional goals and proposals due to the IEDC.
- April 2024: Proposed IEDC board approval of investment commitments and allocations to regions.
- May 2024: IEDC begins coordination with regions in identifying regionally significant projects based on the goals submitted.

Building upon the success of READI 1.0, E-REP and the Regional Development Authority (RDA) will lead the application process alongside strategic partners to further enable the region's TALENT EVV community vision. E-REP is committed to communicating READI 2.0 updates and opportunities to the region and encourages all interested parties to visit the E-REP website to sign up for READI email updates.

"The READI 2.0 program will shape a brighter future for Southwest Indiana," Barney added. Additional details on READI 2.0, including program structure, eligibility requirements, metrics, READI 2.0 goals and focus areas, application details and more can be found at https://indianareadi.com/resources.





Let's welcome Marian Educational Outreach as a new member of the Evansville Regional Economic Partnership. Marian Educational Outreach is located at 520 S. Bennighof Ave. in Evansville and can be reached by calling 812-303-1165 or email eschnapf@evdio.org. Read on as Emily Schnapf, Executive Director, tells us about Marian Educational Outreach.

Tell us about Marian Educational Outreach and the services you offer.

Marian Educational Outreach has a mission to support students with disabilities in the Catholic Diocese of Evansville. We partner with schools to ensure that children have resources, materials and items needed to fully participate in learning with their peers in the Catholic school system. We partner with 26 schools, including our Diocesan High Schools. MEO supports parents and helps advocate for children of all abilities to attend a Catholic school if they choose.

What inspired you to invest your time and resources in this business?

I am a former special education teacher and seeing the works of our resource and special ed staff on a greater level is something I care deeply for. Helping teachers be the best they can be and knowing that my work empowers them to open doors to children of all needs is the most rewarding work I can think of.

What career advice would you give the younger generation interested in this type of work?

Open doors for yourself and make yourself available to those who want to learn from your style. Not everyone will agree, but sometimes modeling and learning from others who are modeling different styles or ways is so powerful. Find advocates and mentors who will pick you up and cheer you on, even on the hardest days.



Emily Schnapf, Executive Director, Marian Educational Outreach

In your opinion, what are three ingredients for success?

Patience, kindness and being a peacemaker. Just be kind to one another!

What has been one of your toughest challenges?

Some of my toughest challenges include separating work and family time. I am a dedicated worker, and I invest my best self into my work. I have to be cognizant of my boundaries and make sure that I practice self-care and spend quality time with my family so that I can be the best wife, mother and worker possible.

Why is the Evansville Region a great place to operate a business?

This community is so close-knit. It is so nice to have connections and see people who care about others in their work and in their families.

What do you like most about the community in which you live?

I love the connections and families who are working toward the same mission of making this community as strong as it can be. I enjoy seeing hardworking people lift each other up and support everyone alongside them.

PLAY TALENT BRIDGE RIVER BIZ WORK Learn more about READI 1.0 at evansvilleregion.com



n a dynamic and ever-evolving job market, employability skills have become the linchpin for both individual career success and regional economic growth. Recognizing this, the Evansville Regional Economic Partnership (E-REP), in collaboration with America Succeeds and the Indiana Chamber of Commerce's Institute for Workforce Excellence, hosted an Employability Skills Workshop with more than 30 unique businesses in attendance. The event provided insight on the vital role employability skills play in shaping a prosperous future for job seekers, developing talent and strengthening the regional economy.

What Are Employability Skills?

Employability skills, often referred to as "soft skills" or "durable skills," encompass a wide range of interpersonal, communication and problem-solving abilities amongst many other qualities. They are the characteristics and attributes that make an individual not just employable but invaluable in today's workforce. In an everevolving economy with AI, Automation, "Big Data" and other novel economic and market trends, the value of Employability Skills is at an all-time high. These skills include communication, teamwork, adaptability, critical thinking, problem-solving, time management and a strong work ethic.

The Strategic Significance of Employability Skills

For businesses, employability skills are the glue that holds a talented workforce together. Beyond technical know-how, these skills are the foundation upon which an organization's culture and productivity are built. Here's how they inform and guide a company's talent development strategy:

Improved Employee Performance: Employees with strong employability skills are more likely to excel in their roles. They can communicate effectively with colleagues and clients, collaborate seamlessly on projects, and adapt to changing circumstances with ease.

Enhanced Team Dynamics: A team composed of members with robust employability skills tends to be more cohesive and productive. They can resolve conflicts constructively, brainstorm solutions and support each other in achieving common goals.

Leadership Development: Strong employability skills are often prerequisites for leadership positions. Individuals who demonstrate these skills are more likely to ascend the corporate ladder and guide their teams toward success.

Customer Satisfaction: When employees possess excellent communication and interpersonal skills, they can provide superior customer service. This, in turn, boosts customer satisfaction and loyalty.

Adaptation to Change: In an era of rapid technological advancement and market shifts, adaptability and problem-solving skills are invaluable. Companies with employees who possess these skills are better equipped to navigate change and seize new opportunities.

The Impact on the Regional Economy

Taking a skills-based approach to workforce development can have a profound impact on a regional economy. Here are a few ways in which it can contribute to sustainable growth:

Reduced Unemployment: When individuals are equipped with employability skills, they are better prepared to enter the job market and secure meaningful employment. This reduces the unemployment rate in the region, fostering economic stability.

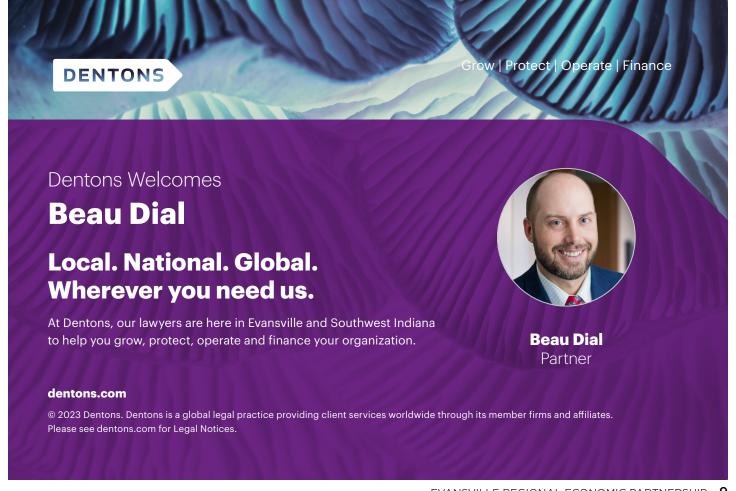
Increased Productivity: Businesses benefit from a more skilled workforce that is not only technically proficient but also adept at collaborating and problem-solving. Increased productivity translates to higher profits and economic growth.

Business Attraction and Retention: Regions that invest in employability skills development become attractive destinations for businesses. Employers are more likely to set up shop in areas with a ready and skilled workforce.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Individuals with strong employability skills are more inclined to become entrepreneurs and innovators. This entrepreneurial spirit can lead to the creation of new businesses and industries, further diversifying the regional economy.

Education and Lifelong Learning: A skills-focused approach encourages a culture of continuous learning. This not only benefits businesses but also educational institutions, which can tailor their programs to meet the evolving needs of the job market.

In conclusion, the Employability Skills Workshop hosted by the Evansville Regional Economic Partnership, in partnership with America Succeeds and the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, is not just a one-time event; it's a testament to the region's commitment to building a stronger and more resilient economy. By recognizing the pivotal role of employability skills and taking proactive steps to nurture them, the Evansville Region is paving the way for a brighter and more prosperous future for its workforce and its community as a whole.



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IRS issues a moratorium on new **Employee Retention Credit processing**

By Better Business Bureau

etter Business Bureau and the Internal Revenue Service warned about scams revolving around the Employee Retention Credit, a tax credit for businesses that continued paying employees during the COVID-19 shutdowns or had a significant income decline during the eligibility period.

Now, the IRS is ordering a stop to new Employee Retention Credit processing after a surge in questionable claims, concerns from tax professionals, and aggressive marketing to ineligible

The moratorium lasts through at least the end of 2023 on processing new claims for the program to protect small business owners from scams.

What businesses need to know

The IRS says payouts for claims already filed will continue during the moratorium period but at a slower pace because of the detailed reviews. Existing ERC claims will go from a standard processing goal of 90 days to 180 days – and much longer if the claim faces further review or audit. The IRS may also seek additional documentation from the taxpayer to ensure it is a legitimate claim.

How to avoid tax credit scams

Ultimately, the IRS will hold you responsible for any inaccurate information on your tax return – not the scammer. BBB has tips to help business owners spot a scam:

- Don't believe marketing materials guarantee you'll qualify for a tax credit. Anyone who makes guarantees without knowing anything about your business is likely up to no good.
- Think twice about promises of huge **refunds.** Scammers use the same tactics for many different cons. Tax credit schemes are no exception. Scammers count on an emotional response to a promise of fast, free cash before reason sets in. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Don't pay to get money. While paying a tax professional to prepare your taxes each year is perfectly reasonable, watch out for companies or individuals

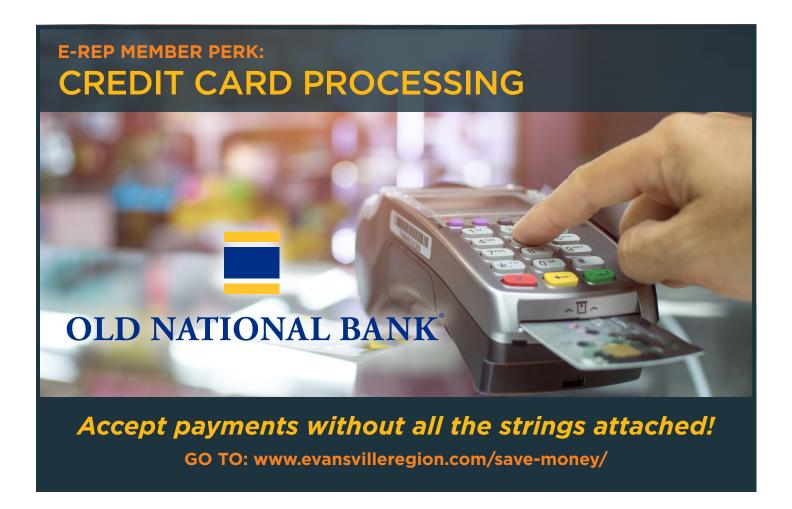
- that charge you fees based on high and optimistic percentages of recovered taxes. Keep in mind that true tax professionals always make conservative estimates.
- Get to know the rules about ERC or other tax credits. Always do your research through a reputable source. For example, a quick visit to IRS. gov reveals that employers eligible for the ERC must have sustained a full or partial suspension of operations due to a governmental order by an appropriate authority, and they need to have qualified as a recovery startup business for the third or fourth quarters of 2021, among other qualifications. A little research can debunk scammers' claims before you get sucked into their
- Be careful with your personally identifiable **information.** Never give sensitive information to someone you don't know and trust. If you are dealing with a tax professional for the first time, investigate beforehand to find out if they have a solid business reputation before you hand over any personal details.
- Always look for businesses that follow BBB **Accreditation Standards and BBB Standards** for Trust. Trustworthy BBB Accredited Businesses don't participate in shady practices. Want to join the ranks and become BBB Accredited? Visit BBB.org/ get-accredited.

For more information

Find more helpful advice at the BBB Tax Tips & Resources page. You may also want to review the BBB Business Tip: Getting your business ready for tax season.

To review this article and hyperlinked references in full, visit: https://www.bbb.org/article/business/29266bbb-business-alert-irs-issues-a-moratorium-on-new-employeeretention-credit-processing

For more business tips to help your small business, check out the BBB business news feed and the BizHQ.





The Manufacturing Institute Releases Updated Benchmarking Study on

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Manufacturing

he Manufacturing Institute, the workforce development and education affiliate of the National Association of Manufacturers, in partnership with Keybridge, released an updated edition of its benchmarking study on how adding more diversity to the talent pipeline can address the industry's challenges in hiring and retaining workers. The paper features a snapshot of manufacturers' current diversity, equity and inclusion practices, along with recommendations for how manufacturers can recruit and retain a diverse workforce and increase the number of women in manufacturing.

"Creating a more diverse, equitable and inclusive workplace is necessary to ensure the readiness of the manufacturing workforce and change perceptions of manufacturing," said MI President and Executive Director Carolyn Lee. "For example, by raising the percentage of women in the manufacturing sector to 35%, there would be enough new employees to fill every opening in the manufacturing sector today. Making inroads with other diverse populations would also help achieve these goals. As manufacturers adapt and evolve their companies' DE&I strategies, the MI will continue to support efforts by amplifying solutions to multiply the impact on the entire industry."

KEY FINDINGS:

Recruiting from a more diverse pipeline can increase the talent pool, which is particularly salient given the number of manufacturing jobs needed in the future.

By embracing diversity, manufacturers can boost their bottom lines. It can also help invigorate a company's culture. Employees — and especially younger workers — want to work for companies that "make the world a better place" and allow individuals to bring their whole selves to work.

Manufacturers are making strides in improving **DE&I at their companies**, including following up on DE&I commitments and soliciting feedback from employees.



The Tri-State Manufacturers' Alliance (TSMA) is a group of local manufacturers and their support network. The mission of the group is to create a vibrant and attractive manufacturing environment that results in improved revenue and profitability as well as an increase in employment for Tri-State manufacturers. TSMA continually works to fulfill its mission by engaging managers and executives from area manufacturing companies in plant tours, quarterly events, peer group discussions, networking sessions, best practice sharing and other activities.

Why join TSMA?

Targeted Networking Through your TSMA membership, you will meet other manufacturers who share many of the same challenges and issues you face in daily operations and decisionmaking.



New Ideas By attending the various educational events offered through TSMA, you'll hear about the latest industry topics and have access to people and resources that will allow you to explore new ideas and opportunities at your company.

Relationship Building Opportunities Some of Southwest Indiana's most successful manufacturers are TSMA members. These seasoned professionals, with their wide range of skills and experiences, are valuable resources who provide unique learning experiences and prove to be valuable contacts.

Learn more about TSMA at

www.evansvilleregion.com/programs-initiatives/ tri-state-manufacturers-alliance.





Let's welcome Riverside Capital Management Group as a new member of the Evansville Regional Economic Partnership. Riverside Capital Management Group is located at 216 SE Riverside Drive in Evansville and can be reached by calling 812-777-0071 or online at www.riversidecmg.com. Read on as Jim Back, Certified Financial Planner, tells us about Riverside Capital Management Group.

Tell us about Riverside Capital Management Group and the services vou offer.

Riverside Capital Management Group is a locally owned, full-service investment management and financial planning firm. Something that sets us apart from other firms is that our advisors are fiduciaries. Much like when you hire an attorney or an accountant, we are legally bound to act in your best interests. And just as you would never expect to get a sales pitch from your attorney or accountant, we will never push you to purchase complicated investment products.

What inspired you to invest your time and resources in this business?

The entire Financial Services industry is evolving for the better. Investment fees are falling, and consumers are demanding more from their Financial Advisors than ever before. The traditional stockbroker model has been replaced by an app on your phone. Consumers no longer need to call a broker to purchase stocks and mutual funds - they can simply "swipe right" to purchase their investments.

We were inspired to embrace these changes. Our expertise extends beyond proper investment management. We look at your entire financial picture including estate planning, tax planning, insurance coverages, charitable giving and legacy strategies. We give our clients ongoing individual attention with a level of expertise far beyond that of a traditional strip mall stockbroker.

What career advice would you give the younger generation interested in this type of work?

"Life long learning" has become a bit of a cliché. However, continuing to learn and to evolve is crucial in the world of finance. Earning your college degree is just the starting point. Both formal classroom learning and immersive experiences in your field are critical to your development as a Financial Planner. Internships are a great way to meet people in the industry and develop professional relationships.



In your opinion, what are three ingredients for success?

- 1. Work Hard No matter which profession you decide on, you have to dedicate time and effort to be successful.
- 2. Take Risks Learn to take appropriate risk and to process your failures successfully.
- 3. Stay Uncomfortable Being the same as everyone else is boring. If you want to outperform your peers, you have to do something different than they are doing. Being an outlier in your field is uncomfortable, but it gives you the opportunity to be really successful.

What has been one of your toughest challenges?

Our toughest challenge is managing our time. Our Financial Planning team is dedicated to serving our clients at the highest level. And when we go home after work, we are dedicated to being the best spouses and parents that we can be. Managing the time between home and work is a constant evolving challenge.

Why is the Evansville Region a great place to operate a business?

People from the Midwest are different (and better.) Most of us are just a generation or two removed from farm families. We grew up with a "farm" work ethic. When I was kid, we would bale hay in the summer. And when it was time for a lunch break, my grandfather would have us stack firewood before returning to baling hay. Stacking firewood was the break! Midwestern people still have that work ethic within themselves.

What do you like most about the community in which you live?

Our office has been on Evansville's Riverfront since 2014 and moving it here was one of the best business decisions that we ever made. It's been amazing to watch Downtown Evansville transform and evolve. The Downtown Evansville business owners are kind and welcoming, and we enjoy the new sense of community here.

Is there anything else you would like to share?

A "start-up" business like ours would not be possible without the incredible support from our families. Our spouses, Amy and Mallory stepped up their already strong support so we could devote more time to our business and clients. Also, our office staff of Abby Lindauer, Amy Back, Bailey Vize and Kelbe Douglass have been wonderful throughout this transition.

he U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (MARAD) has awarded Ports of Indiana a \$2,250,000 grant to assist in the purchase of a heavy-lift crane at Ports of Indiana-Mount Vernon. This is the first federal grant for the Mount Vernon port, and it will allow handling of new large project cargo and dimensional steel shipments.

The award was one of eight projects funded by MARAD through the \$12 million U.S. Marine Highway Grant Program, which is designed to improve movement of goods on the inland rivers by assisting ports in the purchase of low-emission, U.S.-manufactured equipment. Ports of Indiana worked with Ohio River steel shippers to identify the need for a 120-ton crane, which will double the port's lift capacity, improve safety and help decrease carbon emissions through major improvements in operational and logistics efficiencies.

"This is an important project that will allow our port to handle new cargoes and create significant public benefits by shipping larger cargoes by water," said Jason May, port director at Ports of Indiana-Mount Vernon. "By combining the speed and efficiency of our existing 60-ton, dual-lift overhead crane with the heavy-lift capacity and flexible lifting structure of this new crane, we are positioning this port as a critical multimodal hub for steel and general cargo."

The Mount Vernon port is Indiana's largest port by acreage and cargo shipments, occupying 1,200 acres and shipping an average of 6 million tons per year. It is home to 14 companies and 600 acres of available industrial sites with access to five Class I railroads. The port is currently conducting RFP processes for a general cargo terminal operator and an intra-port rail switcher.

Ports of Indiana's grant application received letters of support from key regional leaders and partner organizations, including U.S. Senators Mike Braun and Todd Young, Congressman Larry Bucshon, State Senators Mark Messmer and Jim Tomes, State Rep. Wendy McNamara, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, Indiana Department of Transportation, Posev County Board of Commissioners, City of Mount Vernon, Evansville Regional Economic Partnership, Conexus Indiana, Inland Rivers & Port Terminals, Continental Grain & Barge and Barnhart Crane &

Josh Armstrong to lead regional economic development for E-REP



JOSH ARMSTRONG SVP. ECONOMIC **DEVELOPMENT**

he Evansville Regional Economic Partnership (E-REP) and the Downtown Evansville Economic Improvement District (EID) have announced the appointment of Josh Armstrong as the Senior Vice President of Economic Development for E-REP. Armstrong currently serves as the EID President and begins the new role on October 2, 2023. He will provide leadership for all aspects of economic, community, quality of place and small business development for the Evansville Region.

After leading the 2018 formation of the EID, Armstrong has guided

its ongoing growth in providing self-funded benefits to over 450 properties in Downtown Evansville. "Working with community partners, including the City of Evansville and E-REP, Downtown Evansville has seen tremendous growth during my nine-year tenure. Hundreds of new homes and hotel rooms and dozens of new businesses have opened and thrived in Downtown. Thirty-eight

new businesses opened in the past year alone," said Armstrong. During his time with the EID, Armstrong has also served the region in projects related to the Regional Cities and READI programs, most recently co-leading the Ohio River Vision & Strategic Plan. "Josh has led a transformation in Downtown Evansville. In his new role, his skills and knowledge will continue to serve the Downtown Evansville area, while also impacting people and businesses in the entire region," said John Lamb, Chair of EID Board of Directors.

The EID and E-REP share office space in Innovation Pointe located in Downtown Evansville and have a long history of collaboration and partnership. "Josh is an exemplary leader and has led the transformation of Evansville's Downtown Core," said Tara Barney, CEO of E-REP. "It is a natural fit for him to continue his leadership at E-REP leading strategic impact and economic development work on behalf of the region." Armstrong will continue the work of Jenna Richardt who was recently named Senior Vice President of Business Development for the Ports of Indiana. Armstrong and Richardt will work together closely through a MOU between the Ports and E-REP. "I'm looking forward to serving the broader region, with a focus on creating a place where businesses thrive, and all people are able to work toward their goals while serving their community and each other," Armstrong added. "The Executive Committee of the EID Board of Directors has begun the search for a new Executive Director of the organization," Lamb added.

COWORK EVANSVILLE



Cowork Evansville Spotlight: Meet Kevin Heil, **Founder & Owner of Spot On Solutions**

E-REP is excited to shine a spotlight on Kevin Heil, the brilliant mind behind Spot On Solutions, a renowned bookkeeping and QuickBooks consulting firm. With his extensive experience and passion for teaching, Kevin has been helping small and medium-sized businesses streamline their financial processes since the inception of his company in May 2016.

Since joining in 2017, Kevin has found tremendous value in the supportive community and collaborative atmosphere offered by Cowork Evansville.

He recommends Cowork because of the:

- Low cost
- Opportunities for referrals
- Willingness of coworkers to help and share ideas

Come join us at **Cowork Evansville** and discover a world of possibilities!



AUGUST 2023

NEW MEMBERS

3C VENTURES

6555 Blue Spruce Dr., Newburgh, IN 47630 Ric Wrve 440-478-0910 ric.wrve@3cventures.net www.3cventures.net

CAMELOT JEWELERS

2178 E. Morgan Ave., Evansville, IN 47711 Natalie Lewis 812-473-5440 camelotjewelersevansville@gmail.com www.shopcamelotjewelers.com

CATANESE REAL ESTATE

405 Carpenter St., Evansville, IN 47708 **Catie Catanese** 812-305-6420 c.catanese@kw.com www.cataneserealestate.kw.com

GOAT RESTAURANT GROUP

1237 Cherokee Dr., Richardson, TX 75080 Garrett McGinn 972-400-9079 amcainn@goatresturantgroup.com www.goatresturantgroup.com

ID & A, INC.

1229 E. Virginia St., Evansville, IN 47711 Michael Morris 812-422-7811 ap@id-a.com

JLINZY, LLC

Jerry Linzy 312-961-3221

MARIAN EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

520 S. Bennighof Ave., Evansville, IN 47714 Emily Schnapf 812-303-1165 eschnapf@evdio.org www.meoforkids.org

MEMORIAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORP.

645 Canal St., Evansville, IN 47713 Adrian Brooks 812-422-7676 pastoramb@aol.com www.memorialcdc.org

PIZZA HUT EVANSVILLE:

GREEN RIVER

925 N. Green River Rd., Evansville, IN 47715 812-476-1666 COVERT 1357 Covert Ave., Evansville, IN 47714 812-474-9077 ST. JOSEPH

310 N. St. Joseph Ave., Evansville, IN 47712

812-424-4433

FIRST AVENUE 4508 First Ave., Evansville, IN 47710 812-426-1166

BOONVILLE-NEW HARMONY

601 E. Boonville-New Harmony Rd., Evansville, IN 47725

812-867-8540

E. LLOYD EXPRESSWAY

6625 E. Lloyd Expy., Evansville, IN 47715

BOONVILLE

813 West Main St., Boonville, IN 47601 812-897-8700

NEWBURGH

8887 High Pointe Dr., Space B Newburgh, IN 47630 812-858-9000

OWENSBORO

FAIRVIEW

3189 Fairview Dr., Suite A Owensboro, KY 42303 270-683-1544 FREDERICA ST. 4127 Frederica St., Owensboro, KY 42301 270-684-0040 FREDERICA ST.

5151 Frederica St., Owensboro, KY 42301

PIZZA HUT - PRINCETON

1606 West Broadway St., Princeton, IN 47670 812-385-8831

PIZZA HUT - HENDERSON

2041 US Highway 41 N, Henderson, KY 42420 270-827-4141

SAFEEVAC

Michael Sandefur 812-449-5695 m.sandefur@safeevac.com www.safeevac.com

SONDRA POEHLEIN AGENCY, LLC

6219 Vogel Rd. Ste. 103, Evansville, IN 47715 Sondra Poehlein 812-426-3305 spoehlei@amfam.com www.amfam.com

THE ARC SOUTHWEST INDIANA

P.O. Box 5. Princeton, IN 47670 Melissa Walden 812-386-6312 info@arcswin.org www.arcswin.org

VERITARDUS MARKETING

Erin Hagen 812-449-3111 erin@veritardusmarketing.com www.veritardusmarketing.com

MEMBER RENEWALS

- Autism Evansville
- Bacon Farmer Workman Engineering & Testing, Inc.
- Be Happy Pie Company
- Captivated Content
- cMoe
- Control Specialists, Inc.
- Cookies & Cupcakes By Design
- Dentons Bingham Greenebaum
- Diehl Consulting Group
- ELKO

- Emerald Design
- Enviroplas, Inc.
- Evansville Christian School
- Evansville Regional Business Committee
- Evansville Rescue Mission
- Evansville Vanderburgh County Bldg Authority
- Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery
- First Merchants Bank
- Harbor House Publishers
- Healthsmart Foods
- Insurance & Business Planning, Inc.
- Jacob's Village
- Jan Davies
- Media Mix Communications, Inc.
- Milano's Italian Cuisine
- Mt. Vernon Auto Parts
- NFP Clippinger Financial Group, LLC
- Oakland City University
- Partners Personnel
- Pathway Family Farms
- Penske Truck Leasing
- PGP International Inc.
- Prime Foods
- Quality Inn & Suites Downtown Evansville
- Raymond James & Associates
- RE/MAX Revolution
- Southern Business Machines
- The AME Group
- Tucker Publishing Group (dba Evansville Living and Evansville Business)
- Uniseal, Inc.
- VisualRush Website & Design



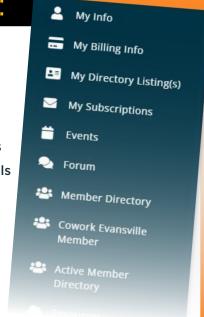


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MILESTONES

Milestone celebrations are a benefit of Evansville Regional Economic Partnership membership. To request a milestone ribbon-cutting, click or scan the QR code.





JUST RENNIE'S CATERING

Just Rennie's Catering celebrated a 20-year anniversary with a ribbon-cutting at 100 SE 4th St. in Evansville. Just Rennie's Catering began in September 2003 when Marla Rennie started the business on her own. In its first year, promoted only by word of mouth, the company offered light lunches of sandwiches, salads, pasta and desserts. The catering company did so well that Marla's husband Doug Rennie left his position as Executive Chef at Victoria National Golf Club in Newburgh, to help Marla grow the business. Doug, a graduate of the New England Culinary Institute and a former chef at upscale restaurants in Houston and Indianapolis, envisioned a catering service that would offer a fine dining experience. Contact them at 812-401-8098 or visit them at www.justrennies.com.



ECP CONSULTING, INC.

ECP Consulting, Inc. celebrated a grand opening of a new location with a ribboncutting at 100 NW Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Evansville. ECP works with business owners to sell ownership to their employees through an ESOP and performs annual DOL-required employee benefit plan audits. The newly rennovated ECP building in downtown Evansville can be rented for private events, office space, or coworking. Contact them at 812-319-6799 or email ECPesop.com.



ATLAS WORLD GROUP

Atlas World Group celebrated a 75-year anniversary with a ribbon-cutting at 1212 Saint George Rd. in Evansville. Atlas celebrates 75 years of moving and packing in this community, creating countless jobs and supporting local nonprofits. Atlas was founded in 1948 and was originally headquartered in Chicago. The Shetler family, one of the founding fathers, suggested this nice lot across from the airport. Atlas has created a wonderful campus here that houses a clinic, a gym, offices and amenities for almost 300 local employees. They are proud of their efforts and legacy and are looking forward to the next 75 years! Contact them at 618-499-5280 or visit them at atlasvanlines.com.



18 EVANSVILLE REGIONAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP EVANSVILLE REGIONAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP 19

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ALICJA ACKERMANN

Marketing Agency EXTEND GROUP announced the addition of Alicja Ackermann as Marketing Design Coordinator. Ackermann, a recent graduate of the University of Southern Indiana with a BA in Art, specializing in Graphic Design and a Minor in Management, will collaborate closely with Shawn Collins, Founder of

EXTEND GROUP and certified GiANT Worldwide Consultant. Her role as the Marketing Design Coordinator will involve leveraging creative skills to develop targeted marketing campaigns, design impactful visual content, and strategize ways to connect with the target audience.



DR. JOSEPH TOOD

Forefront Therapy announced that Dr. Joseph Todd finished the Forefront/Arcadia Orthopedic Residency Program. This program is an intense 12 months of classes and mentorship which allows Todd to sit for his Orthopedic Specialty Exam in March

PATRICK EDWARDS

Shoe Carnival, Inc., a leading retailer of footwear and accessories for the family, announced that Patrick Edwards was named the Company's Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Secretary and Treasurer. Edwards, currently a Shoe Carnival executive officer, has served as the Company's Chief Accounting Officer and Secretary since 2021 and has served as Vice President and Controller since he joined the Company in 2019. Prior to joining Shoe Carnival, Mr. Edwards served in increasing roles of responsibility in finance and accounting during his 18-year career with Vectren Corporation, a publicly traded utility holding company, including serving as vice president and treasurer and vice president of corporate audit. Early in his career, Edwards worked in public accounting for PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. Edwards holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Southern Methodist University and is a Certified Public Accountant. He is active in the community, serving as treasurer of Junior Achievement of Southwestern Indiana and is a former treasurer of Youth First, Inc. He is also a member of the board of directors of the Boys and Girls Club of Evansville and is a member of the University of Southern Indiana Accounting Circle. The company also announced that Erik Gast, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, is leaving the company to pursue other opportunities.



MATT STOUT

RPM Tool announced the promotion of Matt Stout to the position of Machine Shop Foreman. Stout has 12 years of machinist experience in our tool and die shop and has an associate degree from Wabash Valley College in computer integrated manufacturing and computer integrated electronics. RPM Tool offers precision CNC

machining, molding, and stamping services creating parts with tolerances to the 50 millionths.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ALLIANCE

Two employees of the Community Foundation Alliance celebrated work anniversaries by selecting nonprofit organizations to receive a \$500 grant.

MELISSA RUDOLPH selected Friends of Woodmere Dog Park to receive a \$500 grant through the Generosity at Work Grant Program. The recently introduced Generosity at Work Grant Program enables Alliance staff members to contribute to the communities they serve by recommending a \$500 grant to the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of their preference through the Ronald L. Bauer Regional Fund on their work anniversary. Rudolph celebrated her fourth work anniversary as the Executive Assistant with the Community Foundation Alliance, supporting all nine county affiliates in southwest Indiana. She works closely with the President and CEO ensuring efficiency in all aspects of operations.



Amy Smith selected Happy Feet Equals Learning Feet supporting Posey County schools to receive a \$500 grant. Smith recently celebrated her second work anniversary as the Regional Director of Community Engagement and Impact for Gibson and Posey counties – part of the nine-county footprint of Alliance

affiliates. She identifies the needs of the community by working with community leaders through the grants and scholarships



MICHAEL PEERMAN

Lieberman Technologies announces Michael Peerman has been promoted to the role of Chief Executive Officer. Peerman, previously serving as Chief Operating Officer, joined Lieberman Technologies in 2016 and has served in various roles throughout the company. Former CEO Stewart Klipsch, who joined the company in 1994 and has served

as Managing Partner and CEO since 2005, remains a partner in an advisory role. Founded in 1977 by Phil Lieberman, Lieberman Technologies' 20-plus employees provide technology solutions to clients throughout the country, including software and web development, managed services, cybersecurity, IT infrastructure and several products and services serving the vast majority of Sheriff departments throughout the state of Indiana.

SONITROL SECURITY

Sonitrol Security made one promotion and one new hire:



JESSICA GWALTNEY

Customer Relations representative Jessica Gwaltney to Commercial Design Consultant after the untimely passing of Steve Lutz. Gwaltney has been with Sonitrol for a year and a half. She lives in Albion, IL, and is the Albion Area Chamber of Commerce President.



JENNIFER HAYES

Jennifer Hayes joined Sonitrol Security as the new Customer Relations Representative. Hayes spent more than a decade working for an insurance agent. She is a native of West Salem, IL.

BLACKSTRAP MEDIA

Blackstrap Media made a new hire and a promotion:



JODIE COHER

Jodie Coher was hired as Lead Account Manager at Blackstrap Media, a full-service advertising agency specializing in social, brand, web, and video content development. She was previously self-employed at JAC Media handling content strategy, copywriting, and content marketing with SEO.



RYAN DUNN

Ryan Dunn was promoted to Senior Graphic Designer at Blackstrap. He has been with Blackstrap since 2017 working on various multimedia projects from brand, web design, and motion graphics.

HARDING, SHYMANSKI & CO.

Five new employees joined Harding, Shymanski & Co.

PAARAMI ADHIKARI and DAWSON MCBRIDE both joined the Tax Department. Adhikiari will work remotely from Bloomington and McBridge will work out of the Evansville

SHAWN FETSCHER, TYLER DENU, and NOAH **HANCOCK** joined the Audit Department and all will be working out of the Evansville office.



Every Other Friday 8am - 9:30am SIGN UP AT: WWW.EVANSVILLEREGION.COM



NICK VOEGEL

Nick Voegel was promoted to Production Planner for the Mount Vernon Supply Chain Team of AstraZeneca. He is responsible for planning and scheduling. Voegel joined the site as a Formulation Operator in January 2013, working in the Bohle Coating Operations. In 2017, he took a developmental role as Process Facilitator for Bohles. This

position transitioned into a full time Process Facilitator in 2018. In 2021, he accepted the role of Developmental TPM Coordinator for Formulation. Early in 2023, Voegel also took on the role of the site Tulip champion which he is currently keeping for the time being while in the Production Planner role.



DR. MICHAEL GALVIN

Dr. Michael Galvin was named Senior Director of Operations (SDO) for Junior Achievement of Southwestern Indiana. Galvin will report to Marcia Forston, President and CEO. Galvin will oversee the organization's operational functions, including finance, development, marketing, business processes, Junior Achievement

programs, and innovation. He will support and manage the 5-member leadership team. In addition to the SDO, the leadership team consists of the President and CEO, Director of Strategy and Student Impact, Director of Development, and Senior Marketing Manager. Galvin most recently served as Superintendent at The Metropolitan School District of North Posey County. He has 30 years of experience in education serving as a teacher, principal, university professor, and superintendent. His past leadership accomplishments include Executive Board Member of the Indiana Association of School Principals, Indiana Association of School Principals' District Eleven President, and Member of Indiana Association of School Business Officials. Galvin was selected as the 2006 Indiana Association of School Principals' District Eleven Middle School Principal. He holds a Doctorate of Educational Leadership from Western Kentucky University.



ADAM TRINKEL

The Downtown Evansville Economic Improvement District (EID) Board of Directors announced the appointment of Adam Trinkel as the Executive Director for the EID. Trinkel currently serves as the EID's Marketing, Communications, and Events Director. He will provide leadership for all aspects of the EID and

is charged with leading the EID in its mission to create a more active and inclusive Downtown Evansville. Trinkel currently leads marketing, communications, and event efforts for the organization that represents over 450 properties that receive self-funded benefits in the central business district of Downtown Evansville. During his tenure, the EID launched the Downtown Evansville brand, increased its online presence through the creation and development of a website and highly engaged social media channels, and organized 12 signature events that welcome over 50,000 visitors annually Downtown. He has also developed relationships with Downtown business owners, created a growing event volunteer program, and launched and sustained a sponsorship program that generates in excess of \$100,000

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ALCOA WARRICK OPERATIONS

Alcoa Warrick Operations made new hires:



DONALD GIBBS JR.

Donald Gibbs Jr., Carbon Plant Supervisor, brings over 30 years of aluminum experience. He previously worked for Alcoa Warrick Operations in various Potroom and Carbon plant roles from April 1990 to April 2015. Donald reports to Ron Kelso, Carbon Plant Manager.



ERIC HAGMAN

Eric Hagman, Aluminum Plant Supervisor, has more than 20 years of manufacturing experience. He holds an associate degree in Business Administration from Vincennes University. Eric reports to Jason Cunningham, Aluminum Plant Manager.



MATTHEW JONES

Matthew Jones, Power Plant Fuels Supervisor, brings over 15 years of fuels experience to Alcoa. He holds a Bachelor of Integrated Studies, Commerce and Leadership focus, from Murray State University. Matthew reports to Rachel Meeks, Fuels Coordinator.



BRYON CRAIG

Bryon Craig, Industrial Hygienist, reports to Beth Holloway, Health and Safety Manager. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Western Kentucky University and a Master of Science in Public Health from University of Utah School of Medicine. He is a Certified Industrial Hygienist and Certified Safety Professional.



WESLEY MUNIE

Wesley Munie, Boiler Reliability Engineer, reports to Bruce Sloan, Power Plant Process Engineering Lead. Wesley holds a Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering from Missouri University of Science and Technology.



MATTHEW INGLES

Matthew Ingles, Power Plant Mechanical Maintenance Planner, reports to Mike Fritchley, Power Plant Maintenance Manager. Matthew previously worked for Alcoa as Mechanical and Electrical Maintenance Planner and Technical Assistant from October 2016 to April 2021. Matthew holds a degree in Mine Maintenance from Wabash Valley College.



HALLEE



TAMARA HILDERBRANDT TUCKER

Hallee Hilderbrandt, Administrative Assistant, and Tamara Tucker, Administrative Assistant, both joined Alcoa on Sept. 11. Hallee and Tamara report to Paula Ford, Payroll Supervisor.

REXING COMPANIES

Rexing Companies made five new hires:



JESSE CARPENTER



JENNIFER STASER



MATTHEW DUNCAN



DARRIUS JOHNSON



Jesse Carpenter, Logistics Account Manager, PFL Logistics

Jennifer Staser, Logistics Account Manager, PFL Logistics

MCPHIL

Matthew Duncan, OTR Class A CDL Driver, JR's Expedited Freight

Darrius Johnson, Logistics Account Manager, PFL Logistics

Julius McPhil, Spotter Driver, JR's Expedited Freight

ASHLEY CHAMNESS

Evansville Day School K-6 Technology Instructor Ashley Chamness was selected to receive the prestigious VEX GO Grant from TechPoint Foundation for Youth. The VEX GO Grant will equip primary school and middle classrooms with a set of 10 VEX GO robots, ensuring an engaging hands-on learning experience for students. In addition to the state-of-the-art robots, the grant also includes a comprehensive curriculum specially designed for VEX GO.

FORVIS

FORVIS, a national CPA and advisory firm, announced promotions for its Evansville office:



JENNIFER HECKEL, CPA

Jennifer Heckel, CPA, was promoted to director. She provides tax services to corporate, partnership, and individual clients, focusing on the taxation of manufacturing companies and private equity groups. She also has experience with multistate tax returns. She is a graduate of University of Southern Indiana, Evansville, with a B.A.

degree in accounting and minor in finance.



ZACK PATTON, CPA

Zack Patton, CPA, was promoted to senior manager. He provides financial statement audits, internal audits, agreed-upon procedures, FDICIA control implementation, and trust consulting reviews to community banks, FDICIA-regulated institutions, and trust departments. He is a graduate of University of Southern Indiana, Evansville,

with a B.S. degree in accounting and finance.



DEVAN SANDERS LOGEMAN, CPA

Devan Sanders Logeman, CPA, was promoted to senior manager. As part of the FORVIS Private ClientTM team, Logeman works with individuals, families, businesses, fiduciaries, and private foundations to provide sophisticated income, gift, and estate tax compliance, consulting and planning services. She is a graduate of Indiana

University, Bloomington, with a B.S. degree in management and legal studies, and a magna cum laude graduate of Valparaiso University, Indiana, with a J.D. degree.



TYLER VIETH, CPA

Tyler Vieth, CPA, was promoted to Senior Manager. Vieth provides tax services to C-corporations, partnerships, and S-corporations and their investors, focusing on commercial products and private equity. He also has experience with income tax provisions. He is a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville, TN, with a B.A.

degree in accounting and a Masters in Accountancy.



STEPHANIE ALDRIDGE

Stephanie Aldridge was promoted to tax services senior manager. Aldridge has more than 10 years of experience providing tax services and assisting in the preparation of corporate, individual, and partnership tax returns. She is a graduate of Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, with a B.S. degree in accounting.



ANDREA MEDCALF, CPA

Andrea Medcalf, CPA, was promoted to manager. Medcalf provides assurance and consulting services to manufacturing and distribution, retail, and nonprofit clients. She also has experience providing audits of employee benefit plans. She is a magna cum laude graduate of University of Southern Indiana, Evansville, with a B.S. degree in accounting.



CRAIG WILMES, CPA

Craig Wilmes, CPA, was promoted to manager. He works with many different clients in the areas of private equity, financial institutions, and real estate. He is a graduate of University of Southern Indiana, Evansville, with a B.S. degree in accounting.



AUSTIN WOLF, CPA

Austin Wolf, CPA, was promoted to senior associate effective October 1. Austin provides audit services to clients across a variety of industries. He is a graduate of University of Southern Indiana, Evansville, with a B.S. degree in health administration and a post-baccalaureate certificate in accounting.



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11:30 AM - 1 PM

OLD NATIONAL EVENTS PLAZA

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