

Switzerland County Economic Development Strategy Update Newsletter



What's New:

- *High-Speed Internet Project Begins*
- *County Included in Regional Training Grant*

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET PROJECT BEGINS

A community partnership has brought affordable high-speed internet access to much of Switzerland County. The Switzerland County Economic Development Commission has partnered with the City of Rising Sun, The Patriot Water Company and K95.5 *Froggy* FM to make the service available. The new service will cover north-central Switzerland County.

The Switzerland County Economic Development Commis-

sion provided equipment to allow Rising Sun's wireless Internet service to be carried into Switzerland County. Tower space to mount the equipment was provided by The Patriot Water Company at Quercus Grove and K95.9 *Froggy* FM at Center Square.

Efforts to deploy high-speed internet were called for in Switzerland County's 2004 Economic Development Strategy. New service areas are expected in early 2009.



Community partnerships have brought new high-speed Internet service to Switzerland County

COUNTY INCLUDED IN REGIONAL TRAINING GRANT

Lilly Endowment, Inc. has awarded \$12 million for a regionally-focused initiative called Economic Opportunities 2015 (EcO15).

The EcO15 initiative will directly impact ten Indiana Counties including Switzerland County. The key objective of the initiative is to advance citizens of the region by at least one level in their training, education and/or job placement. Proceeds of the

Lilly Endowment grants will be focused on three primary economic growth areas, Advanced Manufacturing, Health Care Services, and Hospitality/Tourism.

To coordinate and align the regional learning system, the grant will provide funds to staff an EcO15 coordinator located in each of the ten counties. The EcO15 Initiative will be guided by a 40-member regional advisory

council made up of representatives from each of the ten counties.

Once the EcO15 Initiative has been implemented throughout the Southeastern Indiana region, it is expected to serve as a model within the United States for how regions educate their citizens and leverage that talent to drive the productivity and competitiveness of their regional economies.



\$12 Million was awarded to Southeast Indiana for the EcO15 Project