

# Strategy Update

## Switzerland County Partners in New Regional Economic Development Group

Switzerland County has joined four other Indiana counties to create the Southeast Indiana Growth Alliance. This new regional economic development group has been formed to promote southeast Indiana as the "Affordable Cincinnati Address." Just minutes away from the western edge of Cincinnati, this region includes Ripley, Franklin, Dearborn, Ohio, and Switzerland counties, as well as the city of Batesville. The alliance is a unique example of regional cooperation bringing together economic development groups in each of the participating counties for a common purpose. The group's website, southeastindiana.org, promotes the low

cost of doing business and the availability of affordable real estate in southeast Indiana. Economic development organizations decided to create the alliance to market the overall region.

"We have been working to coordinate our marketing efforts for several years," said Jon Bond, President of the Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation (SCEDC). "We know we can accomplish more working together than we can individually." Indiana's conservative approach to fiscal management results in a reduced likelihood of tax increases, and lower

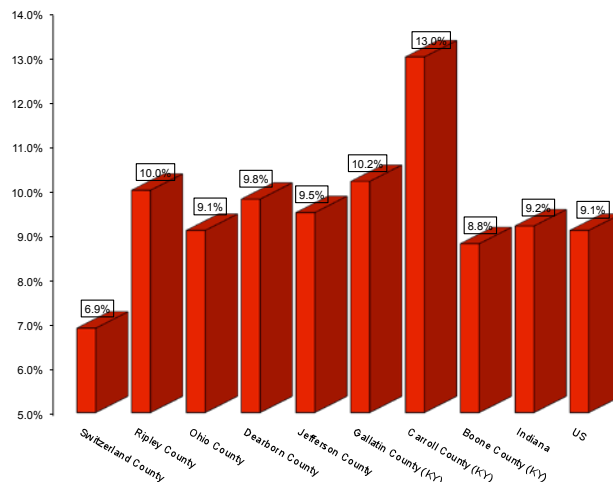
workers' compensation rates equal a lower cost of doing business. Alliance members believe that a business relocating to southeast Indiana will have all the regional benefits without the costs found in other parts of the Greater Cincinnati area. ■

## SOUTHEAST INDIANA Growth Alliance

The affordable Cincinnati address

## Switzerland County Has the Lowest Unemployment Rate in Southeast Indiana

Switzerland County again has the lowest unemployment rate in southeast Indiana at 6.9 percent. The state's seasonally adjusted jobless rate was down three-fifths of one percent from November to 9.2 percent this month, putting Indiana's rate almost even with the national rate. Indiana's unemployment was lower than neighboring states in December. Illinois came in second at 9.3 percent, Ohio fell to 9.6 percent, Kentucky was at 10.3, and Michigan declined 0.7 to 11.7 percent. ■



## Trenwa Inc. Begins Construction

Trenwa Inc. has begun construction on its new facility in the Markland Business Park. The 25,000-square-foot facility will represent a \$2.5 million investment for the company. Trenwa is the second company to locate in the park in the past year. The company produces 10-foot-long concrete trenches that are used for the distribution of electrical control cables, power cables, and mechanical piping. The company's global customers are primarily related to the utility industry and include waste water treatment plants, telecommunication sites, wind farms, solar and nuclear power plants, and universities. The company plans to complete its facility next spring and begin production shortly after that. ■

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## Switzerland County Moves Forward with Adult Learning Facilities

The Switzerland County Commissioners and Council voted unanimously to approve the construction of a new facility that will house our community's first classrooms designed specifically for adult learning. Meeting in a joint session just two days after Christmas, elected officials selected a proposal from Keystone Developers of Indianapolis to begin construction in 2011.

In 2008, Switzerland County's need for an adult education, learning, and training facility was identified as one of the top priorities by local citizens leading our EcO15 initiative. Seeking to collaborate with other community organizations, a partnership was formed with the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service of Switzerland County, the Switzerland County Emergency Management Agency, and the Switzerland County 4-H Board.

Property owned by the county on the corner of Arch and Seminary Streets in Vevay, adjacent to the 4-H Fairgrounds, will be the site of this new facility. This location is ideal for the new offices of the Cooperative Extension Service and for a new modern meeting and banquet facility for the 4-H Board.

Earlier in the year, EcO15 grant funds were used by the SCEDC to create the initial plans for this multi-purpose building, whose tenants all have education and learning as their core primary mission. These plans will include three classrooms designed for adult learning, a computer lab, a manufacturing training lab, a distance-education classroom, and a conference room. Space is also planned for a WorkOne Express office and for counseling services provided by educational institutions such as Ivy Tech, Vincennes University, Purdue University, and Indiana University.

Groundbreaking is planned for early 2011, with construction expected to be completed in the fall of 2011. ■

