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SPRING 2023



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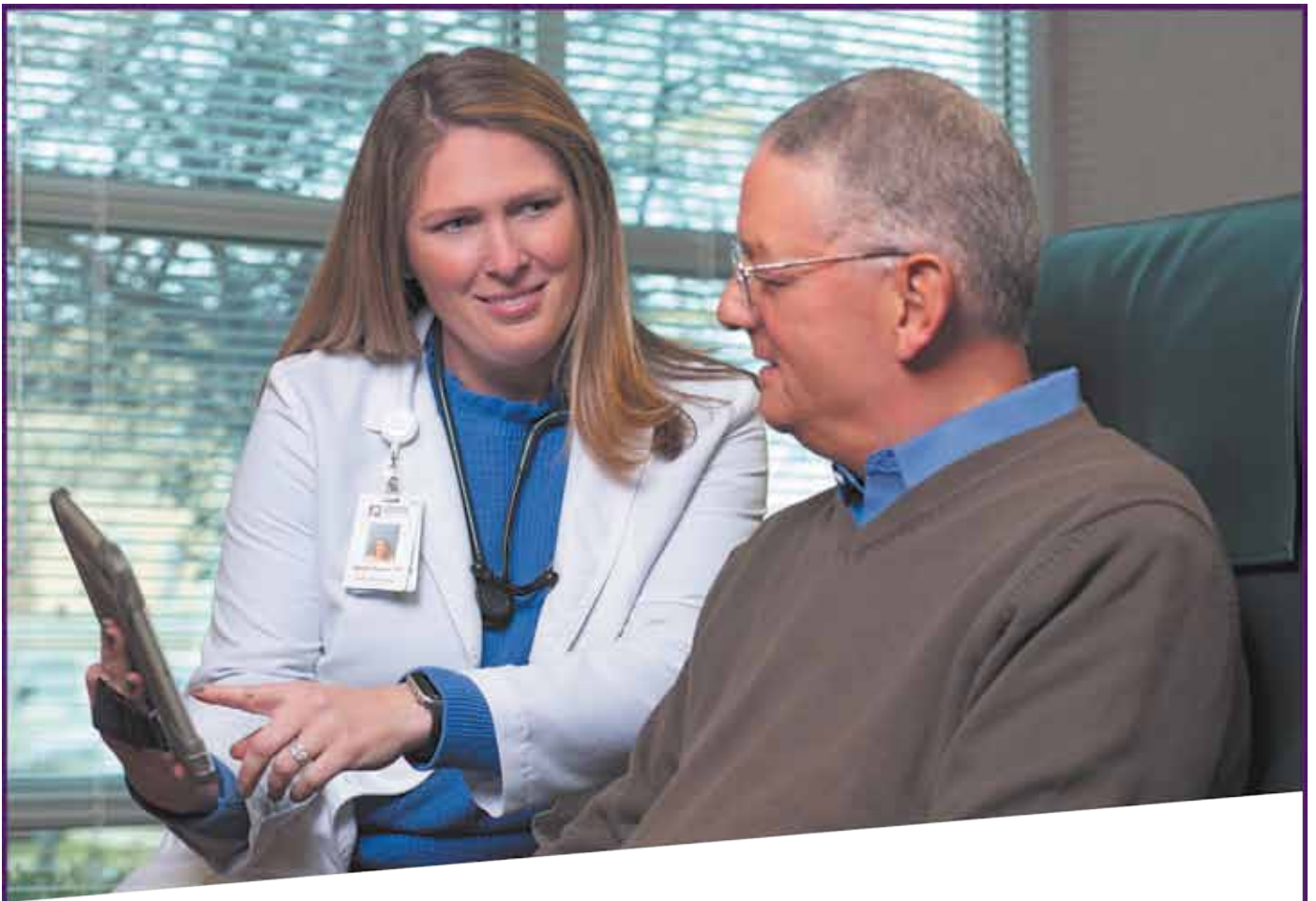
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SOUTHSIDE Business Exchange

SUMMER 2023 | VOLUME 21 | NUMBER 2

COVER
STORY

18



MISTY DENNEY AND SUZANNE SHERMAN DISPLAY FABRIC SAMPLES AT MARTIN FINE FURNITURE

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

SOUTHSIDE BUSINESS EXCHANGE IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE DAILY JOURNAL. THE MAGAZINE IS MAILED AT NO CHARGE TO BUSINESSES THROUGHOUT GREATER JOHNSON COUNTY.

TO SUBSCRIBE, SEND YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS TO:

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POSTMASTER SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:

DAILY JOURNAL, P.O. BOX 699,
FRANKLIN, IN 46131

SOUTHSIDE BUSINESS EXCHANGE IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY AND DIRECT MAILED ON THE FINAL DAY OF FEBRUARY (SPRING), MAY (SUMMER), AUGUST (FALL) AND NOVEMBER (WINTER).

DEADLINES FOR EDITORIAL CONTENT ARE THE FIRST OF THE MONTH IN WHICH THE MAGAZINE IS MAILED.

ON THE COVER

JOHN MCDERMOTT AND SUZANNE SHERMAN ARE THE FOURTH-GENERATION OWNERS OF MARTIN FINE FURNITURE.

PHOTO BY MARK FREELAND

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PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

People making news on the southside

■ **Dr. Michael A. Goldberg** has joined Franciscan Physician Network Neuroscience Specialists Indianapolis. He's a member of a team of physicians and advanced practice providers who offer comprehensive specialty clinical care, incorporating the diagnosis and treatment of spine pain, back pain and rehabilitation.



GOLDBERG

Dr. Goldberg will have clinic and procedural time in both Indianapolis and Mooresville. His clinic locations are 8051 S. Emerson Ave Ste. 300 Indianapolis, and 1199 Hadley Road, Ste. 104 Mooresville.

■ **Gail Richards**, president and CEO of the Johnson County Community Foundation, informed the foundation's board of directors of her plan to retire. Richards will continue in her current position for approximately one more year.



RICHARDS

Richards has served in her position since March of 2009, and oversees five members of the professional staff and works closely with the board

of directors, consisting of nineteen community members from throughout Johnson County. Since her arrival, the foundation's assets have grown from \$10 million to nearly \$40 million, which allows annual investment in the community of over \$2 million and management of 350 charitable funds.

Other notable accomplishments of the foundation during Richards' tenure include repeated national accreditation, completion of four strategic plans, taking control of a private foundation and being a founding member of the 100+ Women Who Care Initiative.

■ **Dr. Carly E. Day** has been elected second vice president to the board of directors of the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine. In that role, she will help lead efforts to foster professional relationships among sports medicine physicians to advance the discipline of sports medicine through education, research, advocacy and excellence in patient care.



DAY

Day is a physical medicine and rehabilitation expert and member of Franciscan Physician Network. She is also head team physician of Purdue University, where she oversees all aspects of medical care for more than 500 student-athletes.

■ Gov. Eric J. Holcomb announced several appointments to various state boards and commissions.

Barbara Blackford, of Nineveh, assistant professor at Marian University, was named to the Indiana State Commission on Aging to serve until July 1, 2027.

Chief **Jeremy Pell** of Bargersville, chief of the White River Township Fire Department, was named to the Integrated Public Safety Commission for an undetermined term.

■ **Anne Chaney**, MT, ASCP, has been appointed director of Alverno Clinical Laboratories Services at Franciscan Health Indianapolis. She succeeds long-time director, Deb Berner.

Chaney most previously served as lab manager and was responsible for staff management and maintaining ongoing



CHANEY

competencies in hematology, chemistry, blood bank and testing in both Indianapolis and Mooresville. A Franklin resident, she has served as clinical instructor.

■ Indiana American Water has named **Matthew Hobbs** Director of Engineering effective February 20, 2023. Hobbs is replacing Stacy Hoffman, who is retiring after 29 years of service with American Water.

Hobbs most recently served as engineering and program manager and client service leader in the Water Services Group for HNTB Corporation. Prior to that, he was a water and wastewater project engineer with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

■ The American Dairy Association of Indiana appointed Heather Tallman to its team as innovation partnerships manager.

Tallman joins the dairy association after five years with the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's Indiana Grown program. She lives in Franklin with her husband and two sons.

■ Four new members were recently elected to the Franklin College Board of Trustees. The new trustees join the board in

establishing policy and guiding strategic efforts to ensure a prosperous future for the institution.

Ronald Bowsher, Ph.D., FAAPS, is a partner and chief science officer at B2S LifeSciences, a biotherapeutic enablement company.



BOWSHER

Kevin D. Crowe is in his 28th year with State Farm Insurance, where he is a business lines underwriting team manager.



CROWE

Billie Dragoo is the founder and CEO of RepuCare, a proven workforce solutions provider to Fortune 500 clients and managed health care providers.



DRAGOO

David Wantz, Ed.D., has more than 40 years of experience in private higher education. In June 2022, he retired after five years as



WANTZ

president and CEO of the Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI).

■ Crane Credit Union promoted **Nichole Garner** to Investment services coordinator. She will be responsible for providing support to Crane Investment Services. She has been with Crane for seven years and recently served as a member service representative at the Franklin branch.

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PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

People making news on the southside

■ Franklin College Associate Professor of History and Director of Women's Studies **Meredith Clark-Wiltz**, Ph.D., was selected as a faculty fellow by the Community-Engaged Alliance for the 2022-23 academic year. Selected individuals serve a one-year term as part of a cohort with other engaged scholars from partner campuses. The team of selected scholars, led by a Senior Faculty Fellow, will work collaboratively on a scholarly project with one another and incorporate critical community engagement into their own faculty work.



CLARK-WILTZ

■ North Salem State Bank announced that **Jeff Joyce**, of Franklin, has joined the organization as Chief Financial Officer, bringing more than two decades of financial leadership experience to help continue to meet the needs of customers and communities.

Joyce serves on the board of directors for DREAM Alive and United Way of Johnson County. He is also involved in other local nonprofit organizations including the Johnson County Community Foundation, Central Indiana Police Foundation and Community Baptist Church in Franklin.

■ Several F.C. Tucker Company

central Indiana sales associates from the Indianapolis South office were honored at F.C. Tucker Company's annual awards banquet in Indianapolis. Award winners were named in the following notable categories:

The Coffey Team received two awards: Leading Sales Producer, with Licensed Team Member and Platinum Producer

Steve Burkhart received one award: Leading Sales Producer, without Licensed Team Member Platinum Producer Whalen Realty Group

Executive Club, First-Time Member: Naing Real Estate Group **Jimmy Ondecko** and **Neil Tremblett**

President's Club, First-Time Member: Naing Real Estate Group and Southern Roots Real Estate Group

■ **Lori Price**, RN, MSA, BS, FACHE, has been appointed president and CEO for Franciscan Health Central Indiana.

Price had served as Franciscan's vice president of quality and patient safety since 2021. In that role, she oversaw the hospitals' overall clinical quality effectiveness, efficiency in use of resources and patient safety.

■ OneAmerica recognized 12 associates as ASPIRE honorees, celebrating their outstanding performance on behalf of the life insurance, retirement and employee benefits organization. The associates were honored at the company's ninth annual ASPIRE Awards gala at the Indiana History Center.

Honorees were **Anne Scheil, John Allen, Tim Weller, Stuart Wood, Keri Price, Mary Pyrzynski, Laura Clawson,**



PRICE

Chris Miller, James Humphrey, Tony Marichal, Andy Wilkinson and **John Mason.**

■ Century 21 Real Estate LLC recently recognized the following local sales affiliates with the Century 21 2022 Quality Service Pinnacle Producer Award. These agents will receive a customized glass trophy, in addition to being recognized at the Century 21 Global Conference.

Local honorees with the Century 21 Scheetz in Greenwood were **Jessica Carl Roof, Robert VanHook, Rachel Bradbury, Michelle Nichols, Amanda Speedy, Kelley O'Connor, Valerie Edwards-Perry, Jessica Rohlman, Jill Johnson, Lori Crosley, Sarah Lux, Traci Jones-Bringle, Jamie Brown** and **Pam Ozbun.**

■ Franklin College has announced the appointment of **Taylor Ogden** as the new director of development. Ogden has more than eight years of experience in the field of institutional advancement with five of those years in fundraising. Most recently, she served at The Orchard School in Indianapolis as the director of development.



OGDEN

In her eight-plus years of development experience she has solicited more than 45 six-figure planned and major gifts; implemented and managed comprehensive annual giving programs, giving societies, giving circles, giving days, alumni and parent giving and participation; and established hundreds of relationships across Indiana and the east coast.

Ogden began working at the college on March 6.

■ **Tracy Hutton**, broker/owner of Century 21 Scheetz announced Century 21 Real Estate LLC recently honored Century 21

Scheetz with the 2022 Century 21 President's Award. The annual award is bestowed upon those independent Century 21 offices that earn the Century 21 Centurion Award and the Century 21 Quality Service Pinnacle award in the same calendar year.

The Centurion Award is presented to Century 21 offices that achieve or surpass sales production of \$2,830,000 or 490 closed transaction sides within a calendar year.

Foundation celebrates awards, honors

The Johnson County Community Foundation celebrated its 30-year milestone by honoring the following and awarding \$90,000 in grants to area organizations:

The original group of founders were honored: **Sandy Daniels**, the first president and CEO was honored for her commitment to the Foundation; **Jeff Goblen**, retired banker and founder of Heartland Community Bank was presented the Foundation's Community Spirit Award.

The three Johnson County Lilly Endowment scholars were honored: **Tatum Hacker** of Center Grove High School, **Lillian Lacy** of Franklin Community High School and **Naman Satsangi** of Columbus East High School will receive full-tuition scholarships;

Gateway Services/Access Johnson County, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Johnson County and Great Harvest Food Pantry were each presented \$30,000 grants made possible by the Foundation Board of Directors and Lilly Endowment Inc.

The Johnson County Community Foundation is a nonprofit public charity established in 1991 to serve donors, award grants and provide leadership to improve the county.



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CORPORATE CHATTER

Companies making news on the southside

KYB receives award for energy-efficiency

KYB Americas Corporation was recognized with a 2023 Better Project Award from the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Initiative on April 12 in Washington DC at its annual summit.

These annual awards highlight select partners for innovative and industry-leading accomplishments in implementing and promoting practices, principles and procedures of energy management.

KYB was honored for replacing seven old inefficient process chillers with a more efficient central chilled water system which resulted in an annual energy savings of 2.1 million kWhs.

Area businesses offer tornado relief

Indiana Kroger stores raised a total of \$8,270 in customer donations for the American Red Cross. Kroger provided an additional \$2,000, boosting the total contribution to \$10,270 to support Red Cross recovery operations in Johnson and Sullivan Counties. Kroger quickly activated its donation relief fund April 1 upon seeing the extent of the tornado damage.

McDonald's of Greater Indiana and Southwest Michigan donated \$10,000 worth of McDonald's Arch Cards to The Salvation Army's Johnson County Red Shield Center. The Salvation Army distributed the cards to people in Whiteland and across Johnson County impacted by the March 31 tornadoes. The Arch

Cards help feed families a hot meal and offer a place for them to refuel and recharge with access to Wi-Fi and electricity to power devices. The Salvation Army partnered with The United Way of Johnson County, Indiana Red Cross, and area churches to coordinate services to the community.

The Duke Energy Foundation gave \$120,000 in grants to Indiana non-profit organizations that responded to the severe damage from the storm. Duke Energy Sustainable Solutions, a nonregulated commercial brand of Duke Energy dedicated to renewables, is also contributing \$25,000 to a west central Indiana community where it operates. The grants went to the Red Cross, Salvation Army and other organizations that help people with basic needs, including \$10,000 to the United Way of Johnson County.

Horizon donated \$5,000 to help aid in relief efforts within the Whiteland and Greater Johnson County communities via the United Way of Johnson County TornadoRelief Fund.

Jiffy Lube partners with police foundation

Jiffy Lube of Indiana announced its partnership with the Central Indiana Police Foundation for a unique initiative.

During routine traffic stops, law enforcement officers across the Central Indiana area will provide individuals facing vehicle equipment violations with a \$25 Jiffy Lube gift card to fund fixing the issue rather than a ticket or fine.

Between the 20 police

departments, 1,145 officers will participate in this year's program. Jiffy Lube of Indiana has donated nearly \$300,000 to participating law enforcement departments across Central Indiana to provide officers with the \$25 Jiffy Lube gift card.

This initiative began in February 2021, with the intent to provide gift cards to support the maintenance needed to avoid future violations.

Local radio station wins award

KORN Country 100.3 was recognized with the Indiana Broadcasters Association Spectrum Award. The award is in honor of the KORN Country special "The Wall That Heals Franklin" that aired Memorial Day Weekend last year.

Several central Indiana veterans shared stories of time in Vietnam and their experiences returning to the U.S. The Wall That Heals Franklin radio special can be heard online at korncountry.com.

Johnson County company awarded

Milwaukee Tool was winner of the Indiana Gold and Silver Shovel Award, recognized for its achievements in attracting investment projects that will create new jobs in the community.

To be considered for the award, states provided area development with information about their top 10 job-creation and investment projects.

Indy Flight School Expands to Anderson

Jeff Air Pilot Services, an Indianapolis-based flight school operating out of the South Greenwood Airport, expanded and opened a new location at the Anderson Municipal Airport.

Jeff Air's Anderson location offers

all the company's services — including flight training, youth courses, and testing — and will serve as a flight training location for those completing aviation degrees through Indiana Wesleyan National & Global. The Anderson location will also be 14CFR141 certified and offer 141 multi-engine training.

Franklin College accredited for physician assistant program

Franklin College announced its Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) program has been granted accreditation-continued status by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc.

The 25-month course of study makes graduates eligible to take the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination and become licensed as a physician assistant in any state.

Franciscan Health critical care unit team earns award

Franciscan Health Indianapolis has received the Silver-level Beacon Award for Excellence from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN).

The award recognizes critical care nurses and teams who improve patient outcomes and align practices with AACN standards and practices. It marks the second consecutive designation for the hospital's critical care unit.

The Beacon Award for Excellence is based on the hospital's leadership structures and systems; staff and staff engagement; effective communication; knowledge management and learning and development; evidence-based practice and processes; and outcome management.



CONGRATULATIONS AWARD WINNERS!

Business success does not come easy. Business leaders navigate ever-changing technology, shifting consumer trends, supply chain disruptions, labor competition, and macroeconomic pressures - all before lunch. Yet many businesses and organizations turn obstacles into opportunities.

Aspire's **Business Success Award** recognizes organizations that demonstrate qualified success in one or more of the following areas – growth and stability, commitment to quality, creative solutions to challenges and entrepreneurial spirit. Aspire's **Excellence In Talent Development Award** spotlights employers demonstrating excellence in talent recruitment and retention. We received many worthy nominations and we want to thank our members for their submissions.

Congratulations to this year's award finalists and winners!

 Denotes category winners

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Coffeehouse Five

Greenwood Public Library



Imagination Library of Johnson County

Johnson County Public Library

Resources of Hope

EXCELLENCE IN TALENT DEVELOPMENT



Independence Village of Greenwood

Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial



2023 Celebrate Aspire Award Winners

About Aspire

Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance's mission is to drive economic development and business success in Johnson County and southern Indianapolis. As the local economic development organization for Johnson County, Aspire leverages community development opportunities to attract, retain, and expand businesses in the county. As the chamber of commerce, Aspire leads the area's business community by advancing pro-growth public policy and providing comprehensive member services to entrepreneurs, small businesses, and large corporations.

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Aspire serves as ‘bridge’ for high-schoolers and business community

STORY BY GREG SEITER

The Greenwood Community High School capstone project is an annual tradition that benefits senior students and community businesses alike.

The capstone project, which is essentially a multi-tier body of work that serves as a culminating academic and intellectual experience for students, isn't unique to Indiana or even America's educational system. The idea of requiring soon-to-be-graduates to identify an existing problem in a real-world setting and apply learned skills and methods to develop a viable solution is believed to have been common practice at different phases of the educational process for many decades, if not longer.

At Greenwood, the idea came into play in 2001.

“When Dr. Edds became superintendent, he proposed the idea,” said Alison Bonham, director of English at Greenwood Community High School who also serves as Senior Project Coordinator. “His wife was in charge of one with Columbus schools and he thought it would be a wonderful experience for our seniors.

“In 2001, we did a couple of experiments with honors students and it went well. So, we rolled it out for all students in 2002.”

Understandably, as Greenwood's version of the program has evolved over the years, modifications have been implemented to enhance the experience.

“The entire project used to all be done senior year but now, at the end of their junior year, students write a proposal letter,” Bonham said. “They have three choices. They can take a traditional approach, participate in a job shadow opportunity or do something with volunteer work.”

According to Bonham, students who take the traditional path must learn something new and then produce proof or an example of what they've learned — how to make pottery, rebuild an engine or play a musical instrument, for

example.

“Job shadowing was added in 2010, mainly to broaden the mentor pool,” Bonham said. “Volunteering is usually chosen by someone who is more philanthropic.”

No matter the direction a student chooses, the fundamental requirements are the same.

“They all have to write a research paper and it must be argumentative; something like limiting money for arts in education,” Bonham said. “In addition to that, they have to put a portfolio together with journals, photos and reflection. They also have to put an eight- to 10-minute presentation together and share that presentation with a panel of judges.”

However, despite the program's ongoing success, administrators and local business leaders have recognized the need for additional community support in regard to external mentor involvement. As a result, a partnership was formed between the Greenwood capstone program and Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance.

“Our connection really started Oct. 21,” said Amanda Rubadue, vice president of economic development at Aspire. “Our strategic plan calls for further collaboration. It calls for Aspire to be a bridge.”

In recognizing a need for increased school and community engagement, Aspire hired Jennifer Hollingshead to serve as school to work specialist.

“Jennifer invited a lot of us to participate as capstone judges this last time around,” Rubadue said. “As a result, I sat in a classroom in which four out of five students said they had trouble finding businesses to connect with for mentoring opportunities. There was a disconnect between the school and businesses that we didn't even know existed and yet, we had many businesses that said they wanted to help.

“It was frustrating to hear so many

students say they landed on one business or another simply because that was the only one that would call them back.”

So, Aspire made it a priority to aggressively promote Capstone-related needs to its community partners.

“We put it on our social media and in our newsletter. We wanted to let businesses know that students would be reaching out to them for connections and we wanted to make sure they realized how important it was for them to return those calls and emails.

“At the same time, we wanted to help students realize the types of opportunities there are for them to explore, just within Johnson County.”

According to Rubadue, the benefits associated with participating in a capstone work-based learning project are numerous for employers, too.

“Basically, it provides them with an opportunity to connect directly with future employees,” she said.

Aspire and capstone organizers must also work toward encouraging student participants to embrace the project and use it to their advantage.

“How do we light a fire under students to help them get excited about what they're working on?” Rubadue asked. “These are the types of opportunities that could lead to an internship. Or maybe a student could go straight from a capstone project into a job after high school or college.

“We want students to really be excited about the projects they're working on.”

Greenwood High School teachers also seem to be excited about Aspire's involvement in the capstone program.

“We're hearing from teachers that students didn't used to know what they were looking for but that's starting to change,” Rubadue said. “Having access to our community guide is helpful too. Students are able to identify things they didn't even know where available to them.

“Our partnership benefits everyone.”

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FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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[View Calendar](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS



Look for event details and updates at franklincoc.org.

JUNE

45th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Date: June 1, 2023

Time: 10:45-11:30 a.m. registration and box lunch, 11:45 a.m. ball drop, 12:00 p.m. shotgun start

CHAMBER LUNCHEON*

Date: June 8, 2023

Time: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

JULY

MEMBER APPRECIATION COOKOUT

Date: July 13, 2023

Time: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

AUGUST

CHAMBER LUNCHEON*

Date: August 10, 2023

Time: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AT JCCF

Date: August 31, 2023

Time: 4:00-6:00 p.m.

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RIBBON CUTTINGS FRANKLIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Possibilities: Home Re-Imagined celebrated its grand re-opening on March 24 at 100 E. Jefferson St. in downtown Franklin.



Miss Polly's Music Class celebrated the opening of their new classroom space at 550 E. Jefferson St., Ste. 311 on April 14.



A ribbon cutting was held for the **Humane Society of Johnson County Pet Memorial Sculpture** on April 20. It is at 3827 Graham Road, Franklin.



The Johnson County Museum of History celebrated the opening of the **City of Franklin Bicentennial Exhibit** on April 13. The museum is at 135 N. Main St., Franklin.



For Fox Sake Offroad and Metalworks had a ribbon cutting on April 28, at 1551 Amy Lane, Franklin.



Coffeehouse Five
 – Bargserville had a grand opening ribbon cutting on Feb. 8 at 10 Plummer Ave., Bargserville.



Wings Etc.
 Greenwood's grand opening ribbon cutting was April 4 at 1259 N. State Road 135, Greenwood.



The Belmont Barbershop had a grand opening ribbon cutting on March 15 at 2991 Fulmer Drive, Bargserville.



Antilogy had its grand opening ribbon cutting Feb. 27 at 5867 N. State Road 135, Greenwood.





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Cooks prepare sandwiches on a counter at Bub and Pop's in Washington, DC. Photo by Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images/TNS

With workers scarce, some states seek to loosen child labor laws

BY STEPHEN ELLIOTT/STATELINE.ORG

In the past two years, lawmakers in at least 11 states have sought to loosen child labor laws to help employers fill empty jobs, even as federal officials and news investigations suggest that many minors working in manufacturing, meatpacking and construction jobs are being exploited or hurt.

The unemployment rate sits at 3.5% — a level last reached in 1969 — and businesses of all types, from factories to restaurants to retail stores, are struggling to find workers. Some state legislators, mostly Republicans, see teenagers as a partial solution. They also argue that relaxing the rules will prompt more teens to seek out valuable work experiences and make it easier for them to supplement their families'

incomes.

But critics say the bills, backed by business groups, are an attempt to roll back critical child labor protections that are nearly a century old.

“Do you remember the images of children in manufacturing and other dangerous work situations from the early 1900s?” Connie Ryan, executive director of the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa, asked lawmakers during a hearing on a bill there. “There is a reason our society said that it is not appropriate for children to work in those conditions.”

The legislation in Iowa would, for example, allow children as young as 14 to work in meat coolers and industrial laundries.

In Ohio, Republican state senators last month approved a bill that would allow 14- and 15-year-olds to work until 9 p.m. during the school year. And in Minnesota, a proposal would allow 16- and 17-year-olds to work on construction sites.

“Eliminating work opportunities for youth just because of their age will make it even harder for businesses to find reliable employees,” Republican state Sen. Rich Draheim, the sponsor of the Minnesota bill, said in a statement provided to Stateline.

“Businesses teach these youth workers skills that will prepare them for their future — and maybe even attract them to their industry for life.”

Arkansas and Tennessee enacted

changes last month. A new Arkansas law removes a requirement that children under 16 provide proof of parental consent to work, while the Tennessee law scraps the prohibition on 16- and 17-year-olds working in restaurants that derive more than a quarter of their revenue from alcohol.

“We’re desperately needing some extra workers between the ages of 16 and 17 to work at some of these restaurants,” Tennessee Republican state Rep. Dale Carr said during a February hearing on the legislation, which he sponsored. Carr represents Sevierville, a tourist destination in east Tennessee.

GOP state Sen. Ed Jackson, who sponsored the bill in the Tennessee Senate, said the goal was “to try to address staffing problems in the hospitality industry,” but also to “encourage Tennesseans to enter the workforce at a younger age in order to gain valuable experience.”

Between 2001 and 2021, the share of 16- to 19-year-olds not working increased by 22.4 percentage points, according to an analysis of federal data by the Economic Policy Institute, a left-leaning think tank.

Many adults lament this trend, perhaps because they fondly remember their teenage jobs scooping ice cream, waiting tables or working the cash register.

But in a report released last month, the Economic Policy Institute argues that the decline in teenage employment is a positive development, since it largely reflects the fact that more teenagers are staying in school. Of the 16- to 19-year-olds who said they were not working in 2021, 58.1% said

it was because they were in school — up 21 percentage points compared with 2001.

“Putting off work in order to obtain more skills and education is a positive trend — for both individuals and the economy — not one that should be slowed or reversed,” the report states.

EPI notes that backers of the state bills include national and state branches of the National Federation of Independent Business, the Chamber of Commerce and the National Restaurant Association, as well as lodging and tourism associations, homebuilders and Americans for Prosperity, a conservative political advocacy group.

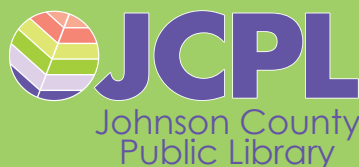
“Attempts to weaken state-level child labor standards are part of a coordinated campaign backed by industry groups intent on eventually diluting federal standards that cover the whole country,” the report asserts.

But Jessica Dunker, president and CEO of the Iowa Restaurant Association, said the legislation in her state is simply designed to open up more work opportunities for students who want, or need, to earn extra money. Dunker told Stateline that her group is most interested in provisions that would allow 14- and 15-year-olds to work later on school nights; allow some underage workers to obtain a driver’s license to drive to and from a job; and allow 16- and 17-year-olds to take and deliver alcohol orders at restaurants.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dunker said, the Iowa restaurant industry laid off about half of its workforce. In the years since, she said, “we were never able to recoup our workforce.”

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A long history

Southside furniture store now in hands of fourth and fifth generations

STORY BY KATHY BOWEN STOLZ + PHOTOS BY MARK FREELAND

It's remarkable when a family business survives beyond a third generation, but the McDermott family who owns Martin Fine Furniture has its fifth generation happily working in the store. Thanks to their commitment to the company, it is the oldest furniture business in Indiana.

Featuring mostly transitional furniture manufactured in the United States, the store offers a variety of styles in its showroom located at 5420 S. East St., on the south side of Indianapolis, just a quarter mile south of I-465 on U.S. 31.

Customers can also shop on the website www.martinfinefurnitureonline.com.

The company's first location was a furniture and mattress factory on the corner of South Meridian and

Arizona streets in Indianapolis. The company was one of the first to create sofa beds and, in fact, held a patent on a mechanism design.

When a huge fire destroyed the original store April 12, 1973, owner Martin "Marty" McDermott decided to relocate the store further south. He modeled the store after his own home with pillars framing the front door and shutters surrounding the windows.

Martin Fine Furniture is primarily a custom-order furniture operation that offers 175 manufacturers and more than 200 fabrics. The sample board for American Heartland Mfg. Inc., shows 33 finishes in oak and poplar, for example. The store differentiates itself from

At a time when Franklin and Johnson County are celebrating their 200th anniversary, a nearby family-owned furniture store in business for 169 years is also something to celebrate.

its competition by offering personable service and quality products, according to John McDermott, president.

"This has been a great location. We get a lot of traffic past here every day, although it's moving really fast," chuckled John. The store attracts not only southsiders but also customers from a 50-mile radius, including Bloomington, Brownsburg, Carmel and Noblesville. "If you've got what people want, they'll travel to you," he said.

"Our customers comment that they've driven by a million times before finally stopping in. They usually say that the store is much bigger than it appears on the outside," added Suzanne Clune McDermott Sherman, John's sister and co-owner of the business.

"A lot of our upholsteries are made in the U.S. and so are our wooden bedroom suites, such as those by Vaughn Bassett. Many of our customers appreciate that they're helping to create jobs in the U.S.," Suzanne said.

The 35,000-square-foot showroom, arranged in room settings by interior designer Greg Garcia, includes rugs, lamps, even original artwork, "just whatever grabs me," Suzanne said. "As Dad said, 'Don't buy just what you like. Buy variety.'"

"We still carry things like curios and coat trees because people still want them. We try to put a little bit of everything we sell in the showroom," but the complete lines are in the catalogs, she noted.

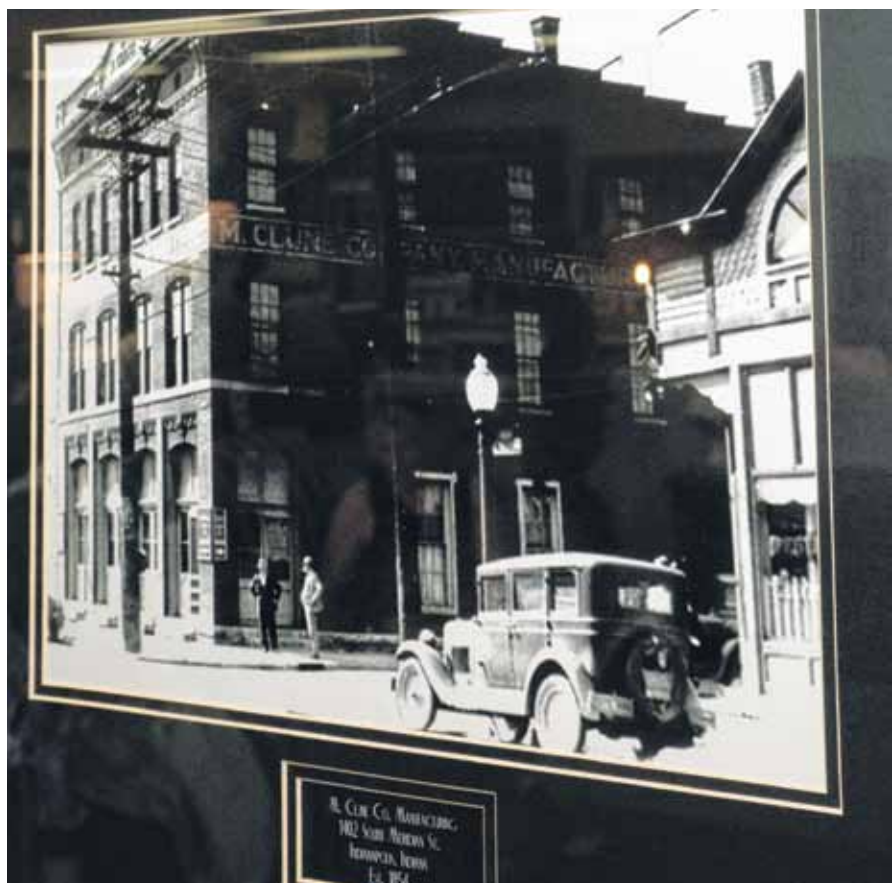
Suzanne and store manager Misty Denney, who has worked for the McDermott family for 33 years, function as a team when ordering.

Fortunately, orders once again can be filled in six to eight weeks, the standard before the COVID-19 pandemic, Suzanne said.

Furniture and mattress manufacturers the store sells include Lancer, Braxton-Culler, Décor-Rest, Barcolounger, Best Craft, Progressive, Select by John Thomas, King Koil and Restonic.

Established in 1854 as M. Clune Co., Inc., Martin Fine Furniture is a division of the company that bears the name of the current owners' great-grandfather, Michael Clune. A photo of the founder's family hangs prominently in the store.

Another prominent picture is a large photo of Martin "Marty" McDermott, grandson of Michael Clune, the father of the current owners and namesake of Martin Fine Furniture. Marty renamed the store after himself in 1958 when he assumed control as a young man. He worked in the business until shortly before he died at age 80 in December 2012.



ABOVE: Old documents for the original store and a photo of the business at its South Meridian location. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** From left: William "Billy" Clune McDermott, Jr., Misty Denney, John McDermott and Suzanne Clune McDermott Sherman with a portrait of the founding family, the Clunes. Not pictured is Austin McDermott.



MARTIN *fine* FURNITURE

DIV. of M. CLUNE CO., INC. EST. 1854

MARTIN *fine* FURNITURE

OWNERS: Bill McDermott and Suzanne Sherman

FOUNDED: 1854 as M. Clune Co. Inc.,

ADDRESS: 5420 S. East St., Indianapolis IN 46227

PHONE: 317-787-8659

WEBSITE: <https://www.martinfinefurnitureonline.com/>

HOURS: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays

John and Suzanne follow their dad's business philosophies. They offer personable service and quality products at competitive prices. They are at the store seven days a week. They treat customers and staff like family, just like their dad did.

And, in fact, they say it is like their dad's there looking over them. In a way he is there in that big picture in the office, prompting Suzanne to say, "He's always got our back!"

John said he learned the furniture business from watching his dad and working in the store from the time he was a teenager.

"My dad was a character, very charismatic. He was very good at making a good impression with families. I wanted to be just like him," he said.

John and Suzanne are proud to continue in their father's footsteps as fourth generation owners. The fifth generation – their nephews Austin McDermott and William "Billy" Clune McDermott, Jr. – work in operations. They, too, are committed to continuing the family business. Other employees in operations are Tony Vardiman and Jan Hulak.

John and Suzanne – two of Marty's eight children – agree they work well together with their defined areas – John in the back managing operations (finances, service and deliveries) and Suzanne in the front overseeing sales and the showroom.

Suzanne said she left a position she loved as activities director at Rosegate Assisted Living to work at the store.

"Mom said the store job was a perfect fit. 'You're just like your dad. You look like him. You walk like him. You have the same personality,'" she said.

John said he likes the operations side of things because "there's always something to do."

Because of his knowledge of how furniture is made, he wants all their products to be well made.

"With mattresses, they're covered, and you can't see inside them. But, like a Cadillac, you can tell the difference when you sit on them. Well-made furniture still sits like a Cadillac after 20 years. Only the fabric wears out," he said.

Lorraine Hon, who recently began working in sales at Martin Fine Furniture, remarked, "These people really treat their customers fairly. People who shop with them won't buy from anybody else."

Suzanne urged, "Give us a shot. Support a small, family-owned business. Come in and see our store. We let you browse without chasing you around. You'll be surprised at the great prices and customer service. Our products are surprisingly very well priced." She compared a table in the showroom priced at \$199 to the same one at a nearby luxury store for \$499.



TOP: Arrangements for the showroom at Martin Fine Furniture are designed by interior designer Greg Garcia. More models can be ordered online. **ABOVE:** Tony Vardiman and Jan Hulak load a couch for delivery. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** Misty Denney, Suzanne Clune McDermott Sherman, John McDermott and William "Billy" Clune McDermott Jr. stand with the signage on U.S. 31.

BUILDING PERMITS

January

Greenwood

SW. corner of Walmart Parcel
Commercial Accessory Structure
\$1,000,000
Contractor: Infrastructure Systems

2528 US 31
Commercial Addition
\$60,000
Contractor: None listed

200 S. Emerson Ave. B
Commercial Remodel
\$1,000
Contractor: Ryan Glithero

5875 N. State Road 135
Commercial Remodel
\$20,000
Contractor: Bashir Harrison

2441 E. Main St.
Commercial Remodel
\$112,000
Contractor: RSQ Fire Protection

355 Commerce Pkwy.
Commercial Remodel
\$200,000
Contractor: Commercial
Team Construction

Johnson County
4824 W. Walker St.
New Construction
\$68,325,262
No Contractor Listed

Franklin
1577 & 1589 Amy Lane
Commercial Remodel
\$1,238,000
Contractor: Avera Commercial LLC.

2182 N. Morton Street
Commercial Remodel
\$1,238,000
No Contractor Listed

5517 & 5529 Founders Way
Commercial Additions
\$450,293
Contractor: Flaherty & Collins

6613, 6625, & 6637 Founders Way
Commercials Additions
\$450,293
Contractor: Flaherty & Collins

545 N. 500 E.
New Construction
\$68,325,262
Contractor: Compass
Commercial Group

2150 N. Morton St.
Commercial Remodel
\$1,238,000
Contractor: Perry Building

1920 Sand Hills Drive
New Construction
\$68,325,262
Contractor: The Links at Franklin

February

Greenwood

120 W. Smith Valley Road
Commercial Remodel
No value
Contractor: Jose Telez

647 N. US 31
Commercial Remodel
\$10,000
Contractor: James Clingerman

878 N. US 31
Commercial Remodel
\$80,000
Contractor: David Wang

999 Gerdt Court C
Commercial Remodel
\$88,900
Contractor: Amy Locker

1621 Collins Road
Commercial Remodel
\$3,500,000
Contractor: Thomas Chmielewski

1703 W. Stones Crossing
Commercial Remodel
\$271,799
Contractor: Town and
Black Construction

1251 N. US31 S. 17
Commercial Remodel
\$45,000
Contractor: Vogts Construction Co.

1300 Windhorst Way
Commercial Remodel
\$10,000,000
Contractor: Kort Builders Inc.

1777 W. Stones Crossing
Commercial Remodel
\$250,000
Contractor: Huffer Construction Co.

1777 W. Stones Crossing
Commercial Remodel
\$400,000
Contractor: Huffer Construction Co.

444 Newport Court
Commercial Remodel
\$134,373.37
Contractor: VM Intergrated

95 Commerce Pkwy
Commercial Remodel
\$20,000
Contractor: USA Rack Installations

707 S. Madison Ave.
Commercial Remodel
\$180,000
Contractor: Resa Construction

100 Surina Way
Commercial Remodel
No value listed
Contractor: Rick Stephens Builder

1259 N. SR 135 A
Commercial Remodel
\$50,000
Karmah Greenwood Inc.

1300 Windhorst Way
Commercial Remodel
\$403,500

Contractor: AAA Roofing Co. Inc.
Franklin
545 N. 500 E.
New Construction
\$68,325,262
Contractor: Compass
Commercial Group

81 & 89 Forest Road
Commercial Remodel
\$1,900,683
Contractor: Sync Storage
Solutions Inc.

81 & 89 Forest Rd.
Commercial Remodel
\$1,900,683
Contractor: Sync Storage
Solutions Inc.

1730 N. Morton St.
New Construction
\$68,325,262
Contractor: Grunloh Building Inc.

1565 Amy Lane
Commercial Remodel
\$1,900,683
Contractor: Avera Commercial LLC

Johnson County
5504 E. 500 N.
Commercial Remodel
\$2,500
Contractor: Not listed

March

Greenwood
649 S. SR 135
Commercial Remodel
\$12,000
Contractor: Farm and
Commercial Solar Solutions

562 Fry Road
Commercial Remodel
\$7,100
Contractor: Displaymax Inc.

1251 N. U.S. 31 S40
Commercial Remodel
\$150,000
Contractor: TBD

999 Gerdt Court A
Commercial Remodel
\$112,138
Contractor: Deem LLC

100 Byrd Way
Commercial Remodel
\$60,000
Contractor: Joe Tiehen

1251 N. US 31 W41
Commercial Remodel
\$28,000
Contractor: Holt Construction Group

241 W. Main St.
Commercial Remodel
\$11,500
Contractor: James E. Henderson

1251 N. US 31 N27
Commercial Remodel
No value listed
Contractor: TBD

100 E Main St.
Commercial Demolition

\$12,000
Contractor: Richard Ruppert

1251 N.U.S.31 J.C. Penny
Commercial Demolition
\$600,000
Contractor: Taylor Brothers Construction

2525 S.S.R. 135
Commercial Demolition
\$18,401
Contractor: Midwest Remediation

Johnson County
490 S. Morgantown Road
Commercial Remodel
\$10,000
Contractor: Not listed

4422 Hickory Stick Pkwy.
Commercial Remodel & Addition
\$1,300,000
Contractor: Not listed

850 Mullinix Road
Demolition - Firehouse 1-69 Project
\$93,000
Contractor: Not listed

Franklin
545 N. 500 E.
Sprinkler System
\$1,966,240
Contractor: R.E. Griesemer Inc.

7505 Founders Way
SFR Accessory Structure
\$15,000
Contractor: Getchell Brothers Inc./
DRW Construction

1500 N. Morton St.
Electrical/Mechanical/Plumbing Upgrade
\$4,739,000
Contractor: Air Comfort

237 W. Jefferson St.
New Construction
\$1,726,545
Contractor: Amazing Design LLC

700 Bartram Pkwy.
Electrical/Mechanical/Plumbing Upgrade
\$4,739,000
Contractor: AC&R Specialists

600 International Drive
Commercial Addition
\$200,000
Contractor: Elite Homes LLC

120, 132, 144, 156, 168 Cypress Dr.
New Construction
\$3,532,798
Contractor: The Links at Franklin

102, 106, 110, 114, 118
Cypress Drive
New Construction
\$3,532,798
Contractor: The Links at Franklin

64, 68, 72, 76 Cypress Drive
New Construction
\$3,532,798
Contractor: The Links at Franklin

10, 14, 22, 26, 34, 38,
42, 46 Cypress Drive
New Construction
\$3,532,798
Contractor: The Links at Franklin

Franklin Chamber announces new business meeting space

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce through the Franklin Chamber Foundation has completed a new business meeting space in the recently renovated second floor of their historic, downtown Franklin office.

“Business support and education are the essence of the Franklin Chamber and we have recognized, for years, the untapped potential of the second floor of our building. When the opportunity for development presented itself, we set out to create a space well suited for small business education, meetings, board retreats, trainings. Already a number of organizations have enjoyed the space and we are excited to provide this additional service to the business community,” said Rosie Chambers, Executive Director of the Franklin Chamber.

Those interested in utilizing the 750-square-foot business meeting space can find rental information at <https://www.franklincoc.org/foundation#room-rental>.



The Franklin Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for its new business meeting space on May 4. The space is on the second floor of the office at 120 E. Jefferson St., Franklin.

Aspire gives awards at annual meeting

Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance announced winners of its Business Awards.

Aspire’s Business Success Award recognizes organizations that demonstrate qualified success in one or more of the following areas. Its Excellence in Talent Award spotlights employers demonstrating excellence in talent recruitment and retention. Finalists were previously announced April 20th. The winner in each category was revealed at the annual “Celebrate Aspire” event held on April 27th at the Garment Factory in Franklin.

Winners by category are:

Business Success, for-profit: ASAP Payroll Service

ASAP Payroll Service is dedicated to keeping businesses in compliance and making sure their client employees are paid on time and accurately. They invest

in best-in-class software, hire top-notch employees, and provide employee training on ever-changing payroll and HR laws.

Business Success, for-profit – Spotlight Strategies

Spotlight Strategies is a full-service commercial printer, custom apparel producer, promotional item provider, and custom sign designer serving the greater Indianapolis area and located in Franklin.

Business Success, nonprofit: Coffeehouse Five

Coffeehouse Five is a non-profit coffeehouse, bakery, and coffee roaster that uses net revenue to meet mental health needs in Johnson County.

Business Success, nonprofit: The Imagination Library of Johnson County

The Imagination Library of Johnson

County is one of 3,500 affiliate programs of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library. Due to the hard work and dedication of their Board of Directors

Excellence in Talent Development: Independence Village of Greenwood

Independence Village of Greenwood is a senior living community offering enhanced living, assisted living, and memory care to seniors.

“Aspire’s work only helps to create the friendly business climate for business success. The rest is up to you. And you took full advantage of the momentum,” said Rob Campbell, Aspire board of directors president

“Business leaders navigate ever-changing technology, shifting consumer trends, supply chain disruptions, labor competition, and macroeconomic pressures — all before lunch. This year’s finalists impressed us.”

