

Partner in Progress Award Recipients

October 23rd, 2008

Senator Bob Meeks – Senator Meeks represented Northeast Indiana in the State Senate for 20 years and had previously served as a State Trooper. Senator Meeks was given a Partner in Progress award upon retiring from the Senate in 2008.

November 18th, 2008

Reginald and Tracey Jones – Mr. and Mrs. Jones are successful business owners and operators of several McDonald's restaurants in central Indiana. They were both given a Partner in Progress award for their support of the McMiracle on East 38th Street. Each year they give food, bikes, and helmets to families in need during the holidays. In 2007, they helped 7,200 families.

April 13th, 2009

Center for Leadership Development – The Center for Leadership Development (CLD) provides thousands of students needed resources to help them achieve a college education. CLD was given a Partner in Progress award at the opening ceremonies of a new facility, where the staff was recognized for encouraging youth to become leaders.

May 26th, 2009

Shane McCoy – Mr. McCoy was instrumental in persuading Honda to expand in Indiana and create jobs for Hoosiers. He was given a Partner in Progress at his farewell celebration.

June 5th, 2009

Franklin College – Franklin College in Johnson County has a long, rich history of educating Hoosiers and non-Hoosiers alike. Franklin College was given a Partner in Progress award on the college's 175th Anniversary.

June 12th, 2009

Senator Katie Wolf – Senator Wolf was the first woman to seek and be elected as a State Representative from District 25 and as a State Senator from District 7. Senator Wolf was given a Partner in Progress award at the Women Giving Together Luncheon to recognize her dedicated service to the community and the State of Indiana.

June 15th, 2009

Robert Juncker – Mr. Juncker dedicated his life to agriculture education. He worked for the Department of Education for 30 years and served in several roles with Indiana Future Farmers of America (FFA). Mr. Juncker was given a Partner in Progress award during his retirement from FFA at the State FFA Convention.

August 5th, 2009

Faith Killian Fassnacht – Miss. Killian Fassnacht, an 11 year-old, from Lafayette was given a Partner in Progress award for Operation Teddy Bear and Bear Hugs to the Troops. Since August 2007, she has collected teddy bears and letters to US troops in Iraq. The soldiers give the bears to children, including those in orphanages.

August 13th, 2009

Dr. Clint Rusk – Dr. Rusk was given a Partner in Progress award after his retirement. Dr. Rusk was awarded for his service to Indiana through animal agriculture and education. For 12 years he served as chairman of the State Agriculture Judging Committee. He also coordinated annual agricultural judging contests as well as developed youth training seminars related to animal projects.

August 18th, 2009

Lt. Governor Skillman recognized 11 individuals by presenting Partner in Progress awards to long-serving State Fair volunteers and retiring State Fair board members at the Indiana State Fair.

Nila Armstrong – Ms. Armstrong was given a Partner in Progress award for her more than 30 years as volunteer in the State Fair's Cattle Department.

Bob Cain – Mr. Cain was given a Partner in Progress award for his many years of volunteer service at the State Fair in the Building and Grounds Department. He is responsible for keeping the grounds clean and aspects of the State Fair good working condition.

Barbara Crowell – Ms. Crowell was given a Partner in Progress award for her many years of volunteer service at the State Fair. She is responsible for the 4-H desk.

Jeff Henson – Mr. Henson was given a Partner in Progress award for his many years of volunteer service at the Harness Racing Program as well as the gates to the State Fair.

Dave Kinder – Mr. Kinder was given a Partner in Progress award for his many years of volunteer service as the organizer for the entire shuttle bus program at the State Fair.

Diana Kuhn – Ms. Kuhn was given a Partner in Progress award for her service to the State Fair as a State Fair board member. Ms. Kuhn retired from the board in 2009.

Mark Merkel – Mr. Merkel was given a Partner in Progress award for his service to the State Fair as State Fair board member president. Mr. Merkel retired from the board in 2009.

Kathy Rucker – Ms. Rucker was given a Partner in Progress award for her volunteer service as the manager of the State Fair dance stage for 15 years.

Alan Washburn – Mr. Washburn was given a Partner in Progress award for his volunteer service to the State Fair as the official voice of the State Fair for the past 25 years.

Mauri Williamson - Mr. Williamson was given a Partner in Progress award for his volunteer service to the State Fair as the founder and creator of Pioneer Village.

September 9th, 2009

Dr. Brian Bowen – Dr. Bowen was given a Partner in Progress award for his service to Indiana through the Center for Coal Technology Research and Purdue University. Dr. Bowen is credited for preparing and presenting 14 scholarly papers that helped educate Hoosiers and people across the globe about energy.

October 1, 2009

Judge Charles Pratt – Judge Pratt was given a Partner in Progress award at the 20th Annual Conference on Youth, a conference that he founded. He also created Great KIDS make Great Communities to provide youth development initiatives. His efforts have helped Allen County receive the All American City for the fourth year.

October 20, 2009

Radius | Indiana – All Radius Indiana board members below were awarded a Partner in Progress for their commitment to economic development in an eight county region in south central Indiana. Each member dedicated themselves to efforts to bring new opportunity to Indiana.

Ryan Asberry

Susan Kleinman

Dale Ankrom

Ron Arnold

Joan Bethell

Doug Conrad

Don DuBois

Judy Gray

Gene Mc Cracken

Jerry Ott

Marie-Christine Pence

Jerry Rose

Ken Sendelweck

Rex Williams

Cullen McCarty

October 27, 2009

Jeff Turner – Mr. Jeff Turner was given a Partner in Progress award at a fall dinner. He was recognized for his service to the Dekalb County community. Mr. Turner is known around the community as someone willing to help organizations in need; such as, the United Way and local YMCA.

November 21, 2009

Andrea Neely – Ms. Andrea Neely was awarded a Partner in Progress at the United Negro College Fund gala. Ms. Neely was an integral part of the UNCF and went above what is expected in order to make the organization stronger.

February 1, 2010

Chrisney Library – The Chrisney Library in southwest Indiana was awarded for their work in making the library a model for all other libraries. They are the state’s first zero emissions library. The branch uses solar energy and geothermal technology for its energy needs, which makes their monthly energy costs zero.

February 6, 2010

Randy Woodson – Dr. Randy Woodson was awarded a Partner in Progress for being a champion of agriculture in Indiana. In his role at Purdue University, Dr. Woodson represented Purdue and the state of Indiana at local agriculture economic development summits. He is also credited for bringing home more opportunities for Indiana agriculture through global missions.

February 24, 2010

Erin Slater – Ms. Erin Slater was presented a Partner in Progress at the Inspire 2010 Power of Mentoring Awards for her work with College Mentors for Kids. Ms. Slater founded the Purdue University Chapter and currently serves as Chief Executive Officer. Under her experienced leadership College Mentor for Kids has grown and thrived. Countless young people have benefited from the organization’s mission of mentoring.

March 1, 2010

Cleo Duncan – Representative Cleo Duncan represented Hoosiers for 16 years as a state representative in House District 67. In 2005 she was appointed Chairman of the House Roads and Transportation Committee becoming the first ever female in Indiana to ever become chairman of any committee. Representative Duncan was given a Partner in Progress Award upon retiring from the Indiana House of Representatives.

March 4, 2010

Connie Sipes – Senator Connie Sipes was presented a Partner in Progress Award upon her retirement from the Indiana Senate, where she served for 13 years. Senator Sipes represented Hoosiers in Senate District 46, which includes Floyd and most of Jeffersonville.

March 4, 2010

Gary Dillion – Senator Gary “Doc” Dillion was presented a Partner in Progress Award upon his retirement from the Indiana Senate, where he served for eight years. Senator Dillion represented Hoosiers in Senate District 17, northeast Indiana.

March 5, 2010

Steve Buyer – US Representative Steve Buyer was awarded a Partner in Progress for his years of service to Indiana and the United States. Rep. Buyer announced his retirement from the US Congress, where he served 18 years, and US Army Reserve, where he served 30 years, in January of 2010.

March 17, 2010

Dan O'Connell – Mr. Dan O'Connell was presented a Partner in Progress Award for his service to Indiana's tourism industry. As President and CEO of the Fort Wayne Convention and Visitors Bureau, Mr. O'Connell has demonstrated great leadership in expanding tourism opportunities in Fort Wayne. He accepted the award at the Hoosier Hospitality Luncheon.

April 6, 2010

Rita Vukovic – Sister Rita Vukovic was awarded a Partner in Progress for her service as a teacher to Indiana's children. Sister Rita continues to educate youth at Cardinal Ritter High School and has 60 years of teaching experience. She was awarded on her 80th Birthday.

April 16, 2010

George Sheridan – Mr. George Sheridan was awarded a Partner in Progress for his 25 years of service on the Muncie Tourism Commission. He was awarded at a National Tourism Week Luncheon.

June 13, 2010

Ronald Covington – Rev. Ronald Covington, Sr. was awarded a Partner in Progress at the 15th anniversary of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, where he serves as pastor. Rev. Ronald Covington, who is also president of WESCO, has played a critical role in serving Hoosiers' spiritual needs for more than 20 years.

July 15, 2010

Katharine Carr – Ms. Katharine Carr was presented the Partner in Progress Award for her 24 dedicated years of service in the banking industry. Most of her years, 20, were spent working with state and local government to develop and implement payment and collection programs.

July 15, 2010

The individuals below were presented Partner in Progress Awards for their dedicated service to the Indiana State Fair. These individuals either served on the Indiana State Fair Board or volunteered many years of service to the Indiana State Fair.

Denis Menard

Lynette Walter

Harold Stark

Wanda Weitekamp

Marco Dominquez

Rodnie Bryant

Mike Clark

Jessop Family

John Royer

Kay Thompson

July 21, 2010

Bill Gray – Mr. Bill Gray was presented the Partner in Progress Award at the Riley Area Development Corporation (RADC) annual meeting. As president of RADC, Mr. Gray has led the charge to help urban communities achieve long-term economic success through the revitalization of neighborhoods. RADC has partnered with the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, and together various successful housing programs have been implemented.

August 4, 2010

Providence Housing Corporation – Providence Housing Corporation was presented the Partner in Progress Award for the services they provide to Hoosiers. They develop, finance and manage affordable housing for seniors, individuals with special needs and families.

August 10, 2010

Rex McFarren – Mr. Rex McFarren became the first Allen County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Director in 1985 and continues to serve in this role. Under Mr. McFarren's leadership; Allen County CASA has thrived, serving in more than 1,300 Child Abuse and Neglect Cases and helping more than 2,800 children. He was presented a Partner in Progress Award at a Great Kids Great Make Communities event.

October 21, 2010

Barb Abel – Ms. Barb Abel retired from Conner Prairie after 36 dedicated years of service. She was presented the Partner in Progress Award during a reception in her honor.

October 21, 2010

Dawn Tabler – Ms. Dawn Tabler was presented a Partner in Progress Award for her more than 20 years of dedicated service in the banking industry.

November 13, 2010

David Garner – Mr. David Garner was presented the Partner in Progress Award for his leadership as Head of the International School of Indiana (ISI). ISI is the only school in the Midwest where all of its high school students participate in the full International Baccalaureate Diploma program.

November 19, 2010

Adele Bowden-Purlee – Ms. Adele Bowden-Purlee was presented the Partner in Progress Award by Lt. Governor Skillman during the Lawrence County Leadership luncheon. Ms. Bowden-Purlee was recognized for her 23 years of dedicated service as director of the Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce.

November 23, 2010

Mark Eutsler – Mr. Mark Eutsler was presented a Partner in Progress Award for his service to the greater Lafayette community. Mr. Eutsler has chaired the 500 Festival Parade since 1992. He also recently completed 20 years of faithful service as chair of the Ivy Tech State College Business Advisory Committee.

December 2, 2010

Jo Wade – Ms. Jo Wade was presented a Partner in Progress Award after 30 dedicated years of service to the Lafayette West Lafayette CVB. Ms. Wade is also a member of the Indiana Tourism Council.

December 3, 2010

Lil' Arties – Lil' Arties is a youth basketball program in Martinsville, Indiana that began in 1971. Recently, the youth sports league was celebrated its 40th season and was presented a Partner in Progress Award. Lil' Arties has become a model to other sports leagues in Indiana and is a longstanding tradition of Martinsville basketball history.

December 9, 2010

The individual listed below were presented Partner in Progress Awards for their dedicated service to the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's Advisory Board.

Greg Huber

Mark Townsend

Matt Gibson

December 12, 2010

James D. and Sonja Robinson – Mr. and Mrs. Robinson were presented the Partner in Progress Award for their service to the south-side of Indianapolis. Both are retired, but continue to serve on various committees, specifically committees related to education and non-profit services. They are seen in the community as beacon of hope to those who are homeless and those in need of resources.

January 5, 2010

The individuals listed below were presented Partner in Progress Awards for their service on Indiana's Counter-Terrorism and Security Council (CTASC). CTASC is responsible for implementing a comprehensive state strategy to address terrorism in Indiana.

Sheriff George Sheridan, Delaware County

Representative Vernon Tincher, Indiana House of Representatives

January 6, 2010

The individuals listed below were presented Partner in Progress for their dedicated service to Hoosiers as a member of the Indiana General Assembly.

Representative Matt Bell, Indiana House of Representatives

Representative Randy Borrer, Indiana House of Representatives

Representative Jacque Clements, Indiana House of Representatives

Representative Mike Murphy, Indiana House of Representatives

Representative Bill Ruppel, Indiana House of Representatives
Representative Jackie Walorski, Indiana House of Representatives

January 13, 2011

Wabash Valley PLUS Staff / Unit – The Wabash Valley Correctional PLUS Staff / Unit was presented a Partner in Progress Award for their exceptional efforts. The Wabash Valley PLUS Unit was the first program in the correctional system and it has earned several local and national awards.

January 21, 2011

Mildred Townsend – The Lt. Governor presented Ms. Mildred Townsend a Partner in Progress Award at the Robin Run Golden K Kiwanis Club meeting. Ms. Townsend works at Robin Run Village, a retirement home, and is beloved by everyone due to her can do attitude and willingness to extend a helping hand and smile.

January 29, 2011

Rosa Chapman – Ms. Rosa Chapman was presented a Partner in Progress Award in Fort Wayne during her retirement celebration. Ms. Chapman served as executive director for Bethany, Inc., a non-profit serving at risk children and families, for 12 years. She also advocated for several important issues impacting Fort Wayne.

February 22, 2011

Daniel L. Raubuck and Sharon Pitts – Mr. Raubuck was presented a Partner in Progress Award for his 32 years of educational service in the Vigo County School Corporation. Mr. Raubuck is devoted to all students, and he began an adapted physical education program for disabled students at Woodrow Wilson Middle School.

Dr. Sharon Pitts was presented a Partner in Progress Award for her 39 years of educational service in the Vigo County School Corporation. Dr. Pitts has dedicated herself to provide the best educational environment for children in her community, and for that she has been presented numerous honors and awards.

March 7, 2011

Jim Kline – Mr. Kline was presented a Partner in Progress Award during Indiana Agriculture Day at the Statehouse. Mr. Kline has grown a small farm, that he purchased in high school, into a 7,500 acre operation where he grows corn, soybeans and seed wheat. He is an innovator, and his contributions to Indiana agriculture have made the industry strong.

April 1, 2011

Timothy Morrison – Mr. Morrison was presented a Partner in Progress Award during a retirement celebration. He was recognized for his service to his community, state, and nation as the first assistant for the United States attorney of the southern district of Indiana. He also was the acting United States attorney.

April 15, 2011

Tom Prichard – Mr. Prichard was presented a Partner in Progress Award during an Indiana Artisan reception. Lt. Governor Skillman created the Indiana Artisan program in 2008 to promote the work of individuals who create high-quality arts, crafts and value-added foods. Mr. Prichard, an Indiana Artisan, in several ways has helped make the Indiana Artisan program a success. He serves on the Indiana Artisan Board and has dedicated countless hours of his time to making the program a success, including moving the program from a state-sponsored program to an independent non-profit.

June 9, 2011

Scott Syverson – Dr. Scott Syverson was presented a Partner in Progress Award for his dedicated service at Stonegate Early College High School. Before Dr. Syverson left Stonegate to pursue another opportunity, he was recognized at a reception.

June 23, 2011

Edward Epping – Mr. Kline was presented a Partner in Progress Award during Indiana Agriculture

June 27, 2011

John Kahle – Mr. John Kahle was presented a Partner in Progress Award for his dedicated service at the Honda Manufacturing of Indiana plant. Mr. Kahle was recognized at farewell reception held in his honor.

July 5, 2011

Kappa Alpha PSI – Kappa Alpha PSI was recognized with a Partner in Progress for their 100 years of service to the community, state, and nation.

August 17, 2011

Lt. Governor Skillman recognized nine individuals by presenting Partner in Progress awards to long-serving State Fair volunteers at the Indiana State Fair.

Henry Johnson – Mr. Johnson is the parking manager at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. He has held this year-round position for more than 15 years. He has worked the Indiana State Fair for more than 35 years, starting as a parking attendant when he was a teenager.

The Orme Family – The Orme Family has been a part of the Fair for more than 50 years as a concessionaire. In 1959, the family started selling turkey legs, and it has grown to be a family tradition.

Jeannie Raymann – Ms. Raymann has been a dedicated Fairgrounds employee for 20 years.

Wayne Dillman - Each year Mr. Dillman serves as the role of cook at Pioneer Village. He also prepares the living history agricultural museum at the Indiana State Fair.

Reynolds Family - The Reynolds Family has not only been a Fair partner and vendor for 53 years with the Reynolds Farm Equipment, but they are also a year-round supporter of the Fairgrounds and its educational efforts.

Linda Goodnight – Ms. Goodnight has been an important part of the Fairgrounds for 20 years as she is the person in charge of coordinating the Fairgrounds’ beautiful flowers and landscaping.

Terry Simpson - Mr. Simpson became a part of the Indiana State Fair in 1948, while attending Broad Ripple High School. He has held many jobs including the Announcer for Band Day (1957 was his first year to do this) as well as the Publicity Director. He is best known as the VOICE of the Indiana State Fair Band Day.

Fred Rosemeyer – Mr. Rosemeyer is known as Mr. 4-H at the Indiana State Fair. Since 1976, Mr. Rosemeyer has helped make the 4-H program a success at the Indiana State Fair.

Kay Woods – Ms. Woods started at the Indiana State Fair in 1979 working in the Cattle Barn each year as a volunteer. She would take two weeks vacation from her regular job each year to work the Fair. In May of 1993 Kay was offered a position at the state fair and since then has worked in several different positions.

August 17, 2011

Dave Russell – Mr. Russell was presented a Partner in Progress Award at the Indiana State Fair. He was recognized for his service to the agriculture industry. As an Ag reporter, Mr. Russell provided important news and information to Indiana farmers.