Sherri Ziller

Chief Operating Officer
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Professional Experience:

Sherri Ziller, a lifelong resident of Northwest Indiana, is the Chief Operating Officer at the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority [RDA], which is recognized as a highly credible organization known for catalytic project investments and strong financial management practices. She has been with the organization since inception, spring of 2006 and provides leadership in the RDA's efforts to support economic development and redevelopment throughout the Region. Sherri works with the President and CEO and leadership team to continually refine and implement the strategic growth plan to expand and position the RDA as a leader in regional development. She works diligently to provide oversight leadership in marketing development, operations, professional services and financial performance of the RDA. While managing the organization's overall activities, Sherri fosters an environment of accountability, excellence, collaboration, and innovation among the staff and demonstrates fiscal responsibility. Through strong communication, problem solving, capacity building, legislative awareness and financial leveraging, she works to solidify and foster new relationships and stronger regional collaboration. Sherri also develops financial plans and provides budgetary analysis to support the organization in providing guidance and understanding of revenue sources and expenditure costs needed to strengthen their budget. A strategic analysis of budgets yields effective and streamlined policy decisions for the RDA's Board of Directors.

The RDA is now entering its 10th year of operations and has reached a high water mark as a maturing organization. Sherri works with the RDA's partners to change Northwest Indiana's vision for itself and moving the region toward its economic development potential. Responsible for creating benchmarks for financial and policy performance, Sherri ensures best management practices are created, adopted, implemented and adhered to in all facets of the RDA's operations. Since the RDA's inception, all financial and internal control audits have yielded "clean" opinions. Sherri serves as the fiscal agent due to her expertise and strong dedication to the highest standards of public service when working with local, state and federal dollars.

Sherri works with the community and stakeholders to identify ways to leverage RDA investments. Partnered with her team, Sherri has assisted in leveraging $650 million since 2006 from federal, state, local, private, and other sources of funds. Therefore for every one dollar invested by the RDA, there is another $2.57 invested from other sources.

Prior to joining the RDA team, Sherri has served as full-time faculty for Kaplan Higher Education since 2001. Sherri has a demonstrable commitment to her students providing a student-centered approach to create the best educational experience possible for her learners. Sherri's practical experience makes her an excellent resource for giving students the tools they need to achieve their educational and career goals.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & STEWARDSHIP

- Lake Area United Way, Board of Trustees. *February 2015 - Present*
- Influential Women, 2014 Up and Coming Nominee and Finalist, Economic Development, *November 2014*
- Panelist, One Region Community Leader Retreat, "Critical Issues Facing Northwest Indiana", *October 2014*
- The Times Media Company, 20 Under 40 Honoree, *September 2014*
- Environmental Protection Agency, Revolving Loan Fund Committee Member, *February 2014 - Present*
- Building Indiana, Indiana's Logistics Framework Edition, "Commuter Logistics: Commuter Rail In Northern Indiana is Underdeveloped Economic Development Opportunity", Authored, *July/August 2013 Edition*
- Speaker, Leadership Northwest Indiana: A Thriving Community of Opportunity, *June 2013*
- Speaker, Ribbon-Cutting: Wolf Lake Memorial Park Conservatory and Gardens, *June 2013*
- Influential Women, 2013 Up and Coming Nominee and Finalist, Economic Development, *May 2013*
- Keynote Speaker, Sixteen Plus Organization, Economic Development in Northwest Indiana, *April 2013*
- Northwest Indiana Business Quarterly, "*New Year, New Leadership*" Featured in **Economic Development** Category, *Winter – Spring 2013 Edition*
- Keynote Speaker, Duneland Chamber of Commerce, "Economic Development in Northwest Indiana", *June 2013*
- Speaker, Groundbreaking: Dunes Kankakee Trail, *July 2013*
- Speaker, American Planning Association Event: Economic Development in Northwest Indiana, *April 2013*
- Speaker, Leadership Northwest Indiana: Economic Development; Projects that Define the Future of Our Region, *November 2012*
- Southshore Leadership Society, Member, *2010 - Present*
- Leadership Northwest Indiana, Member, *2009 – Present*
- Northwest Indiana Success By Six, Member, *2010 - October 2012*
- March of Dimes, Annual Walk-A-Thon, Participant, *March 2008-2013*

EDUCATION, CERTIFICATES & TRAINING

- Purdue University Calumet, MS, Education, *2012*
- Purdue University Calumet, B.A., Political Science, *2008*
- GFOA [Government Finance Officers Association], Member, *2011*
- SHRM [Society for Human Resource Management], Member, *2011*