



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 to continually refine and implement the strategic growth plan to expand and position the RDA as a leader in regional development. Sherri's works with the President, leadership team and all employees to execute and accomplish the goals/metrics of the RDA's strategic plan. 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 seventh 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 \$540.8 million since 2006 from federal, state,

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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. Sherri continues to be part of the Kaplan family serving as adjunct faculty.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & STEWARDSHIP

- Southshore Leadership Society, Member, 2010 - Present
- Leadership Northwest Indiana, Member, 2009 – Present

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