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FIRST LADY OF INDIANA

**For Immediate Release**  
**March 4, 2014**

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## **Indiana Bicentennial Commission Endorses First Round of Legacy Projects for Indiana's 2016 Bicentennial**

**Indianapolis, IN** –The Indiana Bicentennial Commission today announced the first round of officially endorsed legacy projects.

“We were impressed by the first round of applications we received, but weren’t surprised to see such great things happening in our communities across the state,” said Ellen Rosenthal, President and CEO of Conner Prairie and chair of the Indiana Bicentennial Endorsement Committee.

Legacy Projects are generated by community members and endorsed by the Indiana Bicentennial Commission on a quarterly basis. These projects strive to leave a lasting legacy in honor of Indiana’s Bicentennial in 2016. Legacy projects are deemed open and accessible to the public, fundable (without Commission support) and achievable as an impactful contribution to Indiana’s legacy.

Projects and partners include the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site, a new trail honoring President Abraham Lincoln in Spencer County and an Indiana poetry book engaging all 92 counties, just to name a few.

Projects must meet at least one of the following goals or characteristics: culturally inclusive; creates a legacy for the future; celebratory; and/or engages and inspires youth and young adults.

A full list of endorsed Indiana Bicentennial Legacy Projects can be found at: [www.indiana2016.org](http://www.indiana2016.org). A downloadable application can also be found on the website.

Recently launched, [www.indiana2016.org](http://www.indiana2016.org) is the official Indiana Bicentennial website. On the website, meet commission members, follow the progress of key Bicentennial focuses, learn about state-wide events and help “Celebrate history, Ignite the future.”

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### ***About the 2016 Indiana Bicentennial Commission (IBC)***

*In December 2011, former Governor Mitch Daniels appointed a fifteen member commission, chaired by former Lt. Governor Becky Skillman and former Congressman Lee Hamilton, to oversee the planning and execution of a statewide celebration for Indiana’s 200th birthday. Indiana’s 2016 Bicentennial celebration aims to honor our state’s 200 years of history, but do so in a modern way that engages all 6.5 million Hoosiers and leaves a lasting legacy for future generations. The commission will encourage each community in Indiana to take part in this unique celebration. First Lady Karen Pence serves as the official Bicentennial Ambassador.*