



# The Torch

The official newsletter for State of Indiana employees

AUG  
2025

## Six State of Indiana leaders recognized in IBJ's Indiana 250

On July 23, six officials in Governor Mike Braun's administration were recognized for their influential leadership and contributions to the State of Indiana in the Indianapolis Business Journal's annual Indiana 250.

Indiana 250 is a list of the state's "most influential business and community leaders from a wide range of sectors, including both public and private organizations." Excluding elected officials, the nominees range from across industries and sectors of Hoosier life from community leaders, business executives, sports figures, and more.

"My team is dedicated to improving Indiana and making life better for Hoosier families, and it's great to see some of their efforts recognized in the Indiana 250 list of influential Hoosiers working to make our state better," said Governor Mike Braun

IBJ MEDIA

## INDIANA 250

The most influential business leaders in Indiana

The honorees are:

- **David Adams**, Indiana Secretary of Commerce
- **Jeff Blade**, Executive Director of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation
- **Suzie Jaworowski**, Indiana Secretary of Energy and Natural Resources
- **Dr. Katie Jenner**, Indiana Secretary of Education
- **Patrick Price**, General Counsel for Indiana Governor Mike Braun
- **Gloria Sachdev**, Indiana Secretary of Health and Family Services

*News Release by Governor Mike Braun's Office*

[View all 2025 Indiana 250 Honorees >](#)

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The Torch is published monthly by the Indiana State Personnel Department and is available online at [on.in.gov/TheTorch](https://on.in.gov/TheTorch).

## Got a story?

Submit your story ideas to:  
[spdcommunications@spd.in.gov](mailto:spdcommunications@spd.in.gov)

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# Governor Braun launches Office of Entrepreneurship and Innovation

On July 7, Governor Mike Braun officially launched the Office of Entrepreneurship and Innovation to help Main Street entrepreneurs start, grow, and scale their businesses to grow Indiana's economy and support Hoosier workers.

The office will be led by entrepreneur Brian Schutt. Schutt is the co-founder of Indianapolis co-working space and startup incubator Refinery46, as well as the co-founder of Homesense Heating and Cooling.

"Maureen and I lived the American dream of growing Main Street businesses in our hometown, and I want every Hoosier to have that opportunity. Our goal is to make Indiana the best place in the country to start and build your own business, and the Office of Entrepreneurship and Innovation led by Brian Schutt will be a nation-leading resource to help Main Street entrepreneurs." — Governor Braun

Governor Braun has redirected Indiana's economic development efforts to focus on supporting Hoosier businesses and workers, and spread the benefits of economic development to all four corners of the state, with two North Star priorities: wage growth and new job opportunities.

The Office of Entrepreneurship and Innovation will build on those ideas, and take over some entrepreneurship-focused functions from the IEDC such as overseeing certified technology parks.

The office's primary directives are to:

- Develop and administer programs to support the growth of small business, entrepreneurship, and innovation in Indiana.
- Direct and oversee programs and sources of funding related to the growth of small business, entrepreneurship, technology, and innovation in Indiana.
- Strengthen policies and programs supporting the growth of entrepreneurship in Indiana.
- Coordinate with State agencies and other State-funded entities to align services and programs related to entrepreneurship and starting and scaling a business.
- Work with funded entities to measure funds reaching rural communities, and work with stakeholders and organizations to provide technical support and expand access to resources for entrepreneurs across Indiana.
- Develop and administer programs to support and encourage youth entrepreneurship, including supporting students and teachers in fostering entrepreneurial skills.

The office will be under the Department of Commerce, led by Secretary David Adams.

[Read the full news release here >](#)

## More than 3,000 State employees earned credit for completing the Data Proficiency Program before April 1



The Indiana Management Performance Hub (MPH) partnered with the Indiana State Personnel Department to apply credit for employees who earned the Green, Blue, and Gold badges before the State transitioned to SuccessFactors (SF) in April 2025.

Credit for the badges should appear in each employee's learning history. Employees who completed the training but do not see credit on SF, should contact MPH by emailing [info@mph.in.gov](mailto:info@mph.in.gov).

Employees who have not yet started their data literacy training can access the [Data Proficiency Program](#) through SF. MPH has also posted instructions and answers to frequently asked questions at [in.gov/mph/data-proficiency-program/](https://in.gov/mph/data-proficiency-program/).

*Article by Management Performance Hub*

# \$2 million provided to Indiana food banks through State Department of Agriculture

[Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith](#) and the [Indiana State Department of Agriculture](#) (ISDA) announced in July that Indiana food banks will receive a combined total of \$2 million to support their efforts in feeding Hoosiers in need.

“More people than we realize are suffering from food insecurity,” [Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith](#), Indiana’s Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development said. “These donations support Hoosier families and individuals, and I’m grateful we are able to provide financial support to 11 local food banks.”

According to [Feeding Indiana’s Hungry](#) (FIH), over a million Hoosiers, including 1 in 5 children, experienced food insecurity in 2023, the most recent data available.

“As we have said year after year for nearly five years, our member food banks continue to serve record numbers of Hoosier families. Too

many of our neighbors continue to face difficult choices between paying bills and buying groceries with rising expenses and decreasing accessibility to federal nutrition programs. For any Hoosier to be unsure from where their next meal will come is unacceptable,” said Emily Bryant, executive director of Feeding Indiana’s Hungry.

“We’re grateful for the support of the Indiana General Assembly, Governor Mike Braun and Lt. Gov. Beckwith, and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture for their continued and much needed support to our members to help them serve our Hoosier neighbors and our communities.”

Indiana food pantries and soup kitchens are a subset of food banks. There are 11 food banks which supply pantries and soup kitchens across the state. Each food bank received part of the \$2 million in funding, which supplies community

food pantries, kitchens, churches, and more. This funding will allow food pantries, soup kitchens, and other food distribution centers to receive additional food products from the food bank that serves their location.

ISDA Director Don Lamb is proud to help assist our food banks and pantries that feed Hoosiers.

“Indiana farmers are skilled at growing an abundance of safe, reliable food and food banks and pantries have the necessary resources and skills to distribute large amounts of food to help community members in need,” said Lamb. “We are so thankful for the work food banks, pantries, soup kitchens, and others do for their communities in helping food insecure Hoosiers.”

[Read the full news release here >](#)

## Certified Public Manager course begin in September

Ball State University will launch the next round of Certified Public Manager® (CPM) Phase 1 courses in six weeks, with three cohorts beginning in mid-September. The CPM program, offered through Ball State’s Bowen Center for Public Affairs, provides leadership and management training for public sector professionals across Indiana.

Phase 1 courses will be held at the following locations:

- Fort Wayne – Begins September 11, 2025
- Fishers – Two cohorts begin September 11 and September 16, 2025

The CPM curriculum has been fully updated to reflect the current best practices in public management. Participants will develop skills in areas such as organizational leadership, change management, and strategic planning.

The program is nationally accredited by the Certified Public Manager® Consortium and is open to government and nonprofit employees in supervisory or managerial roles.

[Apply now >](#)

For more information, contact [Ball State’s Lifetime Learning office](#) or visit the [CPM website](#).



# The Indiana Public Retirement System and Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites take home PRSA awards

The Hoosier Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) recently recognized the work of two State of Indiana agencies at their June 12 Pinnacle Awards ceremony. These awards celebrate statewide excellence in strategic communications, public relations and marketing projects, and programs implemented in the previous year.

**The Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites** took home multiple awards including:

- Transforming Angel Mounds, Marketing Communications Pinnacle Award
- Transforming Angel Mounds, Media Relations Pinnacle Award
- Santa Lands at Celebration Crossing, Media Communication Pinnacle Award
- Highlighting Celebration Crossing, Influencer Marketing Pinnacle Award
- Angel Mounds Highlights Native Voices, Inclusive Communications Award of Honor

**INPRS** was also awarded for their digital magazine, *Destination: Retirement*, which has become the primary source of content for INPRS newsletters, emails, and social media campaigns. The resource allows visitors to customize their experience by selecting their retirement plan, topics of interest, and more. Since its launch, email open rates have increased by 23.7%, demonstrating the success of this resource.

**Congratulations to both agencies for being recognized for their excellent work!**

*Information from the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites and Indiana Public Retirement System*



Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites accepts their PRSA awards



Indiana Public Retirement System accepts their PRSA award



# IDEM Office of Water Quality recognized by Indiana Water Resource Association

Congratulations to the IDEM Office of Water Quality team for receiving the 2025 [Indiana Water Resources Association's](#) (IWRA) Outstanding Achievement Award - Public Sector for their contributions to Indiana's water resource community!

This award recognizes their exceptional work addressing the complex issue of PFAS (a group of long lasting chemicals) contamination in Indiana. Senior Environmental Manager Cara Kitchen accepted the award during the association's 44th Annual Symposium.

"It was an honor for us to receive the IWRA Outstanding Achievement Award for our PFAS sampling project. The PFAS sampling at public water systems has been ongoing for several years, and it is nice to see staff receive this well-deserved recognition. Water systems can now make informed decisions on how to best prepare for the upcoming federal PFAS drinking water regulation. Staff's teamwork, dedication, and hard work have helped ensure Indiana's drinking water is safer for all Hoosiers," said Drinking Water Branch Chief Matt Prater.

A public water system provides piped water for human consumption through at least 15 service connections or serves 25+ individuals daily for 60+ days a year and includes schools and childcare facilities. Over 700 public water systems participated in the sampling project.

Thanks to the following IDEM employees for their hard work in determining whether PFAS were present in public water systems and if steps taken to reduce or eliminate them are effective:

- Trisha Williams
- Kevin Spindler
- Cara Kitchen
- Alisha Turnbow
- Alisha Cornwell
- Autumn Ross
- Christian Walker
- Virginia Harris
- Kelly Jones
- Stacy Jones
- Jane Roberts
- Samantha Whitaker

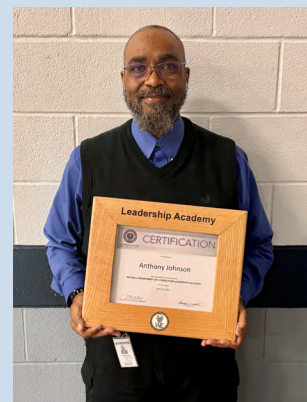
[More information and sampling results are available on IDEM's website.](#) The Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) provided funding for this project.

*Article by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management*



## Education Spotlight: Anthony Johnson

Indiana Department of Administration employee Anthony Johnson recently graduated from the 2025 Leadership Academy that was offered through the Indiana Department of Correction. According to Johnson, one of his most important takeaways is that "investing time and effort into building relationships within our team can significantly enhance teamwork, boost morale, and contribute to overall success." Johnson plans to apply for the Experienced and Emerging Leaders (EEL) program for 2026!





# OPE staff worked behind the scenes to make 'Top Workplace' goal a reality

The Indiana Department of Health's Office of Performance Excellence (OPE) shared some exciting news with their employees earlier this year—they were named a Top Workplace by USA Today and the IndyStar. OPE's Quentin Cummings, Tasha Ramey, and Lotus Myers were able to keep this agency news under wraps until Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW), sharing it at the IDOH Awards ceremony. But the achievement required some coordinating behind the scenes.

OPE staff shared how they worked together to make it happen and for Cummings, it's been a goal since day 1.

"As I transitioned into the agency, it was communicated that we'd love to earn this 'Top Workplace Award' recognition," he said. It was a chance to showcase what they already knew—that OPE was a great place to work.

To become recognized as a Top Workplace by USA Today and/or the IndyStar, employees of a given business must answer a survey. A certain percentage of employees have to complete the survey to qualify for the designation and the responses have to reflect a positive work culture.

Cummings and the team got to work right away with an emphasis on engaging the agency and reaching the required 35% response threshold. They posted flyers in high traffic areas, had face-to-face conversations, and reached out to leadership so they could encourage

their teams to participate. The outreach blitz continued with Ramey and Myers setting up an info table that included State Health Commissioner Lindsay Weaver, MD, FACEP. Email reminders helped seal the deal in time to meet the deadline and all requirements.

Cummings called it "grassroots marketing" with an emphasis on individual connections. When all was said and done, the campaign was a huge success, nearly doubling the required 35% response rate to 65%.

"It celebrates the organization's willingness to be outstanding within the workplace," Cummings said. "It's based on feedback from leadership, innovation, and work life balance as well (IDOH also nabbed a nod for that), and so our employees really spoke highly to how we are taking care of the employee experience from that perspective. So, I was really excited for the agency employee group, but I was also excited for the staff development and engagement group because they did so much to make this come to fruition."

All three team members said the Top Workplace designation shows



Tasha Ramey, Quentin Cummings, and Lotus Myers were part of the push for the Indiana Department of Health's recent recognition as of USA Today's "Top Workplaces."

that IDOH is not only a great place to work for current employees, but that future talent will be drawn to the agency because of it as well.

"This is this is a great boost for us to gain talent and to uphold our mission," Myers said. "There are hardworking employees out there to help us and to uphold us and to carry on that mission because the mission that we have for Hoosiers is a very heavy lift. So yeah, this this will be a great 'magnetic pull' for us in the workforce market out there."

Congratulations to the OPE team for this award and their hard work behind the scenes to make it a reality!

*Article by the Indiana Department of Health (condensed)*

## Governor's Summer Internship wrapping up for the summer

The 2025 Governor's Summer Intern program is coming to an end and to finish their experience, many interns presented capstone posters on their summer projects and 19 exceptional interns were honored at the first annual awards ceremony. The five award categories were ambition, collaboration, innovation, agency impact, and community impact, recognizing interns from a range of agencies who worked on projects like:

- Leading a statewide survey on watershed management projects with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to determine how to better support programs statewide
- Creating a research-driven marketing plan with the Indiana Arts Commission to highlight their specialty license plate and increase funding
- Working to establish Indiana's Yellow Dot program with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, which helps first responders access vital medical information during crashes or emergencies
- Auditing utility bills with the Indiana State Board of Accounts to build trust between Hoosiers and their local government
- Creating innovative vehicle crash and pavement friction models with the Indiana Department of Transportation to identify areas at high risk for crashes and prioritize safety
- Updating estate tax procedures with the Indiana Department of Revenue to support the efficient collection of millions of dollars in funds, and so much more

After a summer full of learning, this year's intern cohort is preparing for their next chapter. Thank you for your hard work with the State of Indiana!

[See the full list of intern award winners >](#)



## Mentor Spotlight: Natalie Rodriguez



Indiana Department of Environmental Management employee Natalie Rodriguez is in the mentor spotlight this month! This is what her nominator had to say about her work as IDEM's External Relations Director:

"Natalie is the kind of leader who truly listens, not just to respond, but to understand. Whether it's a project challenge or something going on outside of work, Natalie always makes space for honest conversations. She makes you feel seen and valued, not just as an employee but as a human being. Her care for our well-being goes far beyond the walls of the office. She checks in not because she has to, but because she genuinely wants to. That kind of empathy in leadership is rare! I'm grateful every day to learn from her and to work alongside someone who leads with heart and purpose."

**Keep up the great work, Natalie!**



## It's National Immunization Awareness Month

August is National Immunization Awareness Month and a great reminder to check in with your Primary Care Provider to see which vaccines are recommended for your unique health concerns. Vaccines not only protect you, but also vulnerable members of your community. Employees and spouses who are eligible for the ActiveHealth program can earn \$25 in Wellness Rewards per eligible vaccine they receive, for a maximum of \$100. Eligible employees and spouses can also earn:

- \$200 for completing an [annual physical](#)
- \$50 per eligible [cancer screening](#)
- \$50 for completing an [eye exam](#)
- \$50 for completing a [dental exam & cleaning](#)
- [View the full list of rewardable wellness activities](#)



## Run the State at Turkey Run State Park & Clifty Falls State Park!

Get outside and get moving at a [Run the State Series](#) Hike or 5k! All Run the State 5K & Hike participants will receive a free Run the State T-shirt, medal, and State Park pin. Add one of the collectible pins to your collection or earn your first one! There is no cost to register, but participants are required to pay \$7 per vehicle at the gate for state park entrance. You may register for more than one event; but there are registration limits for each park, so please only register for events that you plan to attend! Both Turkey Run and Clifty Falls will have a 5k and two hike options.



Register for Turkey Run on  
Saturday, August 16 >

Register for Clifty Falls on  
Saturday, September 20 >





## State employees got their steps in for the July Team Challenge

From July 14 to July 28, 1,217 State employees worked towards the goal of 10,000 steps and 15 active minutes each day. All employees enrolled in the State Employee Health Plan that actively participated in the challenge earned \$10 in Wellness Rewards. The challenge may be complete, but regularly incorporating physical activity can help to maintain your weight, lessen anxiety, improve judgment and reasoning skills, reduce your risk for conditions like heart disease and type 2 diabetes, and more.

**Thanks to everyone that participated in this challenge!**



## OrthoIndy is the preferred orthopedic provider for State of Indiana employees

**ORTHOINDY**  
BONE • JOINT • SPINE • MUSCLE

OrthoIndy is one of the most highly respected orthopedic practices in the Midwest. They are here to help with any orthopedic needs for the State of Indiana team.

[View services and locations flyer >](#)



### OrthoIndy hip and knee pain event recording

The State's preferred orthopedic partner, OrthoIndy, hosted a special event for State employees to learn more about options to treat hip and knee pain. Attendees had the opportunity to directly ask Dr. Christopher Pomeroy, MD, general questions at a state-of-the-art OrthoIndy facility.

[Watch the recording of the event and learn more about OrthoIndy >](#)

## You can update your life insurance at any time

Did you know you do not need to wait until Open Enrollment to make changes to your life insurance? You can submit Evidence of Insurability (EOI) at any time. The online process to request to elect or increase Basic life and AD&D, Supplemental Life or Spouse Dependent Life coverage is easy and quick. On average it only takes 10 to 30 minutes to complete.

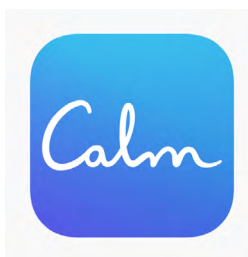
To get started today, visit [lifeBenefits.com/SubmitEOI](https://lifeBenefits.com/SubmitEOI). Enter the group policy number “34297” and the access key “Indiana”. Then follow the application steps. Once you submit your application, Securian will review your application through underwriting. If approved, State Personnel Benefits will make the appropriate changes to your life insurance plans in PeopleSoft and start or modify your premium deductions to match your new life insurance coverage.

Uncertain of how much life insurance coverage you need? Securian has a tool available to help you. Through [Securian's Benefit Scout](#) you can answer a few simple questions and it will calculate three recommended life insurance options: best fit, cost conscious, and enhance coverage. Each option is tailored to you and based on the available State's life insurance options.

[More information about plan rates >](#)

## Use the Calm app at no cost

Tackle stress, sleep better, and be more present in your life with Calm. This wellness app helps you build the skills and resilience to live a calmer, more content life. You have access to sleep stories read by celebrities, soothing natural soundscapes, meditations, and breathing exercises. Best of all, it's available to full-time employees and household members at no cost. Get started by visiting [liveandworkwell.com](https://liveandworkwell.com) (Access code: Indiana) and scrolling down to the Calm app link or by visiting the [Calm registration page](#) (Access code: Indiana). Once you've created an account, follow these steps:



- Open the Calm app/website
- Go to: Profile > Settings > Link Organization Subscription
- Enter organizations code OPTUM EWS
- In the “group code” field, enter your company access code: Indiana

## Healthy living tips for the whole family

Think about how much time you and your kids spend in front of the TV or scrolling online. Too much screen time can lead to weight gain and poor sleep, especially in kids and teens. Sitting for most of the day is bad for your heart, as well.

Find ways for the whole family to limit screen time and move more. Plan a walk on a local nature trail, or on rainy days, plan something fun like a hula hoop contest in the living room.

### Here are more tips:

- Visit your local park. Young kids can be active on the playground, and teens and adults can play tennis, basketball or another outdoor sport.
- Invite other families to join yours for active play dates. Ride bikes, swim, or go bowling.
- Plan a family day in the garden. Kids can help plant flowers and pull weeds.
- Set a healthy example. Limit how often you check work email or social media.

### Wellness Webinar

#### High five: Healthy habits at home

Want to help your family make healthier choices? We'll go over five simple things that can help your family on the path to better health.

**Tuesday, August 19, 2025**

10 a.m. | 12:30 p.m. | 3:30 p.m. | 6:30 p.m.

[Register for the Wellness Webinar >](#)



# Indiana Health Fair serves thousands, brings screenings and entertainment to Indy

The Indiana Health Fair brought thousands to the Indianapolis Convention Center for four days of free health screenings, entertainment, and a whole lot more July 17-20.

IDOH's signature summertime event offered vaccinations (including for students getting set to go back to school), dental education and screenings, and sports physicals as part of a range of health screenings available to anyone attending.

*Article by the Indiana Department of Health*



Left: State Health Commissioner Lindsay Weaver, M.D., FACEP; Tamea Deshawn Evans, M.D. (Centerwell Primary Care), Ken Bond (Community Health Network), Office of Minority Health Director Antoniette Holt; Tony Pearson, J.D., MPH (Eli Lilly and Company), and Brad Ramler (Johnson & Johnson) cutting the ribbon to open the Indiana Health Fair.



Middle: Dance and keeping moving are often keys to better health. The "Young at Heart" dancers live our that mantra.



Right: Indiana Fever mascot Freddy Fever participated in Zumba with fellow WNBA mascots.

## World TB Day recaps year of progress

The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) celebrated World TB Day with its annual summit on June 10, bringing approximately 100 IDOH and local health department staffers, and healthcare providers to Indiana Government Center South.

World TB Day was a chance to look back on the achievements in tuberculosis treatment and prevention on a global scale. IDOH staff joined others from across the state to hear clinical and laboratory updates, alongside other important topics, including TB in Indiana and a story from a TB survivor.

Presenters included Indiana Department of Health Chief Medical Officer Guy Crowder, MD, MPHTM, who discussed tuberculosis (TB) on a global scale, looking at trends and progress on the goal of ending TB; and Maliki Yacouba, PhD., IDOH TB Prevention and Care Director, who presented epidemiological data.

IDOH Laboratory's Mycobacteriology Lab Supervisor Jessica Gentry provided updates from IDOHL, while TB Prevention Program Manager Gurpreet Dhillon discussed respiratory restrictions for community settings.



[More information on World TB Day >](#)

[View photos from World TB Day >](#)

*Article by the Indiana Department of Health*

# Indiana Archaeology Month

September is the 30th anniversary of a statewide celebration of archaeology in Indiana. What began as Indiana Archaeology Week in 1996 expanded in 2002 to become Indiana Archaeology Month because of vigorous interest and demand for archaeology related events. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology (DHPA) coordinates the event to encourage learning about Indiana archaeology, archaeological sites in the state, and the laws that protect them. Universities, museums, organizations, and individuals around the state host a variety of archaeology programs and activities.



## 2025 Poster



Cemeteries are examples of Indiana cultural landscapes. The poster theme this year focuses on how archaeologists play important roles in the documentation and investigation of cemeteries. The poster includes images showing archaeological investigation and laboratory work related to cemeteries, as well as examples of artifact types recovered during several cemetery relocation projects.

State laws protect Hoosier cemeteries, and archaeological work is a key component for preserving, documenting, and protecting cemeteries. These places are more than just serene landscapes of monuments and memorials of lost loved ones. They are also physical landmarks that provide a connection to the past, preserve the history of communities, reveal cultural practices, and reflect social change. DHPA staff archaeologists help implement cemetery laws (e.g., Indiana Code 14-21-1) through the review of cemetery development plans regarding proposed ground disturbance within 100 feet of cemeteries and work plans regarding their investigation.

Copies of the free poster can be picked up in person at the DNR Central Office lobby in the Indiana Government Center South

complex in Indianapolis from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. A limit of five posters can be mailed. Requests for mail delivery may be sent to [dhpconnect@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:dhpconnect@dnr.IN.gov).

Find out about Indiana Archaeology Month events that will take place at [on.IN.gov/dhpa](https://on.IN.gov/dhpa).

*Article by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources*

## Online graduate degrees and certifications

Indiana Wesleyan University's School of Educational Leadership has online graduate degrees and certifications to fit your educational needs. From master's degrees in early childhood teaching, school administration, special education, etc. to graduate certificate programs in biology, English, mathematics, teacher training, and more, there's a wide variety of programs to choose from. [Learn more about IWU's School of Educational Leadership programs.](#)





# It's nearly time for SECC!

The 2025-2026 State Employees' Community Campaign (SECC) begins on September 11! SECC is the State of Indiana's yearly campaign that gives employees the opportunity to support charities of their choice. In addition to setting up a recurring donation, employees can participate in featured weekly events and in agency or region-specific events hosted by Coordinators throughout the state. Last year, over 4,500 State employees pledged \$1.44 million to nearly 1,500 charities, making a significant impact on the local community. There will be plenty of opportunities to get involved this year and the campaign will kick off with two events in Indianapolis on September 11 and 12:

- **Charity Fair** | Thursday, September 11 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Robert D. Orr Plaza
- **Paddle Battle** | Friday, September 12 at 11:30 a.m. on the canal near the IGC-N Cafeteria

Stay tuned for a full schedule of events including the basketball tournament, virtual silent auction, and more! Registration emails will go out later this month and you'll receive weekly emails with event reminders. The campaign will run from Thursday, September 11 until Friday, November 7.



Artwork by Delaura McCorkle (Indiana Department of Correction)

## Registration is open for the GovProc 2025 Conference

**Tuesday, August 26 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Indiana Government Center South**



This is a full-day, in-person event designed for all State employees involved in purchasing. If you buy goods or services, manage programs that do, or supervise staff who do, this conference is for you.

Featuring 14+ sessions to support compliant, effective procurement, this conference will focus on strengthening partnerships and enhancing public procurement through updates on current policies, new procedures, and recent legislative changes impacting the procurement landscape.

Attendees will hear directly from State leaders and gain insight into SEA 5 implementation, RFP reforms, policy manual overhauls, and much more.

Registration and breakout session sign-up is officially open. Due to anticipated high interest, early registration is strongly encouraged. There is also an opportunity to submit award nominations for the State Government Procurement Conference.

**Find GovProc registration and award nomination details >**

*Article by Indiana Department of Administration*

# Check out the 2025 Indiana State Fair - The Soundtrack of Summer!

The Indiana State Fair, celebrating “The Soundtrack of Summer,” presented by Get Prepared Indiana, continues through August 17 with The Soundtrack of Summer, a celebration of music, memories, and all the fun that makes the Fair a statewide tradition. This year’s can’t-miss highlights include The Big Top Circus presented by Bee Window, back and bigger than ever, and our brand-new immersive experience: Vinyl Revival, a nostalgic journey through decades of music, art, and culture.

Plus, enjoy other surefire fan-favorites like Taste & Create, Ikonik DIY glass workshop, the ABATE Tiny Tots riding experience, and the colorful transformation of our basketball court designed in partnership with Pacers Sports & Entertainment.

Mark your calendars as the soundtrack plays all summer long at the Indiana State Fair!

*Article by the Indiana State Fair*



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## Ohio Street traffic restrictions



Ohio Street remains fully closed through August 25, after which one lane will reopen to permit limited traffic flow as construction continues. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of September. Throughout all phases of the project, access to the Indiana Government Center loading dock from West Street will remain uninterrupted.

Senate Avenue, south of Ohio Street and located in front of the State Library, is closed to all parking through September 8.

Employees and visitors are encouraged to plan alternate routes and allow additional time for travel. Thank you for your patience during the completion of this critical infrastructure project. Other parking considerations include monitoring parking capacity at the Indiana Government Center and staying informed through posted alerts.

### Other parking considerations:

Sign up to receive [parking text and email alerts](#) for facilities at the Indiana Government Center as they reach capacity. For questions and concerns about IDOA's parking services, please reach out to [IDOAParkingServices@idoa.in.gov](mailto:IDOAParkingServices@idoa.in.gov).



## August 8, 2025

### Full Moon 5K | Patoka Lake

The race begins at dark, and proceeds will support the birds of prey and interpretive programs at Patoka Lake.

[More Information >](#)

### S'mores Day Fun | Indiana Dunes State Park

Celebrate National S'mores Day and Smokey Bear's Birthday with a whole s'moregasboard of fun including trivia, a marshmallow toss, and s'mores sampling.

[More Information >](#)

## August 9, 2025

### Smokey Bear Birthday Bash | Ouabache State Park

Celebrate Smokey's birthday with bicycle decorating and a parade.

[More Information >](#)

### Smokey Bear's Birthday | Harmonie State Park

Learn the story of Smokey Bear, do some activities, and enjoy light refreshments to celebrate this very special birthday.

[More Information >](#)

### Smokey Bear's Birthday Bash! | Chain O'Lakes State Park

Help wish Smokey Bear a Happy Birthday. Meet the famous bear, hear his story, and enjoy some treats.

[More Information >](#)

### Smokey Bear's Pedal Parade | Raccoon Lake State Recreation Area

Celebrate Smokey's 81st birthday with the annual Smokey Bear Pedal Parade.

[More Information >](#)

### Perseid Meteor Shower and Stargaze | Indiana Dunes State Park

Bring a chair, towel, and bug spray, and enjoy these spectacular views from the State Park's beach.

[More Information >](#)

### Pioneer Day | Mounds State Park

Learn about pioneer life when the Bronnenbergs arrived in Indiana. Activities for all ages will be located on the Bronnenberg lawn.

[More Information >](#)

## August 23, 2025

### Hummingbird Presentation and Banding Demonstration | Indiana Dunes State Park

Come experience these small flying jewels up-close. An expert will be catching, banding, and then releasing some birds.

[More Information >](#)

### Digging the Past | Falls of the Ohio State Park

Combining the best of archaeology and paleontology while giving kids and adults alike a unique, hands-on experience of both sciences.

[More Information >](#)

### Window Payne Band | Mounds State Park

Window Payne is a three person band that specializes in rock, blues, and originals. Come enjoy the evening while listening to this very unique and classic band.

[More Information >](#)

### Tree Trail Trot 5K Race | Salamonie Lake

The Tree Trail Trot Race is a beautiful trail run experience on the gently rolling, wooded trails of Salamonie Lake.

[More Information >](#)

## August 30, 2025

### Labor Day Weekend Cornhole Tournament | Raccoon State Recreation Area

Come see if you can be the best cornhole player at the lake this weekend at the annual Labor Day Cornhole Tournament!

[More Information >](#)

### Floating Campfire | Chain O'Lakes State Park

Meet at the beach and be prepared to wade out to the fire in the water and roast your s'mores.

[More Information >](#)

[View all DNR special events >](#)

# This Month WITH



**August 9, 2025**

**Music at the Mansion | Lanier Mansion State Historic Site**

Bring a chair, grab your dancing shoes, and enjoy an evening of musical entertainment with the Midtown Madmen on the Lanier Mansion lawn.

[More Information >](#)

**Cyanotypes: Photos without a Camera | Limberlost State Historic Site**

Harness the power of the sun to create beautiful nature prints.

[More Information >](#)

**August 14 & 28, 2025**

**Guided Nature Walk | Angel Mounds State Historic Site**

Explore the wooded trails and identify plant species, find animal tracks, and investigate the natural flora and fauna together.

[More Information >](#)

**August 16, 2025**

**Read to Me | Levi and Catharine Coffin State Historic Site**

Join in the library for a special reading of "Bread for Words," a story about civil rights activist Frederick Douglass by Shana Keller.

[More Information >](#)

**Limberlost Plein Air Paint Out | Limberlost State Historic Site**

Channel Gene Stratton-Porter's artistic spirit at the second annual Limberlost Plein Air Paint Out. Find inspiration in the scenes

that inspired Gene's writing, photography, and art.

[More Information >](#)

**August 17, 2025**

**Gene Stratton-Porter's Birthday Celebration | Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site**

You're invited to Gene's 101st birthday party!

[More Information >](#)

**August 22 & 23, 2025**

**Fall Rummage Sale | Culbertson Mansion State Historic Site**

There are lots of spare odds and ends at the mansion—could one of them be your new treasure?

[More Information >](#)

**August 22, 2025**

**Wine and Paint Night | Angel Mounds State Historic Site**

Grab a glass and a paintbrush for the first wine and paint night!

[More Information >](#)

**True Crime on the Ohio River | Lanier Mansion State Historic Site**

A heist has unfolded at J.F.D. Lanier's bank, and it's up to us to solve it! Learn about the thieves and cut-throats that prowled the Ohio River in the early 19th century, then put your detective hats on to try to crack this case.

[More Information >](#)

**Downtown Vincennes: Then and Now Walking Tour | Vincennes State Historic Site**

Take a leisurely walk on a guided tour of downtown Vincennes. Learn the history of downtown and how its changed over the years.

[More Information >](#)

**August 23, 2025**

**Indianapolis Mariachi and Folklore Festival | Indiana State Museum**

Bring your family and friends to celebrate Mexican culture and folklore with a fun-filled day with live music, dance performances, storytelling, craft booths, community partner activities, and more.

[More Information >](#)

**Be a Citizen Naturalist | New Harmony State Historic Site**

New Harmony became an important center for influential naturalists in the 1820s who were interested in the world around them.

[More Information >](#)

**August 30, 2025**

**Music at the Mansion | Lanier Mansion State Historic Site**

Bring a chair, grab your dancing shoes, and enjoy an evening of musical entertainment with Ed "Sax" Thomas on the Lanier Mansion lawn.

[More Information >](#)

**View all Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites events >**