



Indiana Association of  
Cities and Towns

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Evansville Honored with Community Achievement Award for VOICE Initiative**

FRENCH LICK, IN. – The Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT) announced the City of Evansville has been named a **2015 IACT Community Achievement Award** winner for its VOICE Initiative in the greater than 100,000 population category. The City will receive its award during the IACT Annual Awards Luncheon presented by Umbaugh, Wednesday, Sept. 30, at the 2015 IACT Annual Conference & Exhibition in French Lick.

The City of Evansville's VOICE Initiative launched in 2012 by the Mayor's Office and servant leadership organization Leadership Evansville. The ongoing, multi-year initiative began as a community-wide visioning process that engaged more than 4,000 area citizens in envisioning and creating their preferred future for Evansville. By 2014-2015, VOICE was having a far-reaching, transformational impact on Evansville and the region by inspiring hundreds of people to lead new projects, programs and activities that enabled them to "Bee the Change" in the community and impact more than 30,000 others. Further, the rich picture of preferences for Evansville's future from thousands of citizen's visions has been applied in multiple community and regional long-term planning efforts, from the Sustainable Evansville Area Coalition's Millennial Plan for 2040 and Metropolitan Evansville Transit System's Strategic Plan to Evansville's IU Medical School Initiative and Downtown Master Planning process.

"We launched this program so that the members of our community could join together and have civil dialogue about our future desires and current issues of our city. Since our first meeting in 2012, Evansville has seen tremendous growth through hundreds of volunteer servant leaders all inspired by their VOICE experience. Evansville is truly becoming a place where people from all over want to live, work and play," said Mayor Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke.

IACT Executive Director and CEO Matt Greller noted, "When I first learned about the VOICE Initiative, I was impressed with the Evansville community's ability to come together in search of a common vision for their city. I was blown away by the sheer number of people who came out to ensure their own voice was heard as part of this conversation. Engaging the citizens of our cities and towns is an absolute must for enhancing the quality of life in Hoosier communities and this is a prime example for how to do it."



## Indiana Association *of* Cities and Towns

In its 39<sup>th</sup> year, the IACT Annual Awards program, presented by Umbaugh, recognizes communities and individuals in municipal government for excellence and outstanding achievement. A nine-member panel of qualified judges selected this year's winners from a competitive field of nominees from around the state.

Media are welcome to attend the awards luncheon. Please notify Jennifer Simmons ([jsimmons@citiesandtowns.org](mailto:jsimmons@citiesandtowns.org)) at your earliest convenience to secure a media credential.

The Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT) is a coalition of municipal officials who seek to improve the quality of life in Indiana through effective government, and is a member of the National League of Cities. Founded in 1891, IACT is one of the oldest state municipal organizations in the country, with 470 cities and towns as members. IACT advocates for municipalities as the official voice of municipal government in Indiana, and promotes good government through education, training and leadership.

### Conference Facts:

2015 IACT Annual Conference and Exhibition

September 29 – October 1

French Lick Hotel and Conference Center

Attendance: 800 (pending final registration count)

Further information: [www.citiesandtowns.org](http://www.citiesandtowns.org)