

AUTUMN 2010

WHAT GIVES

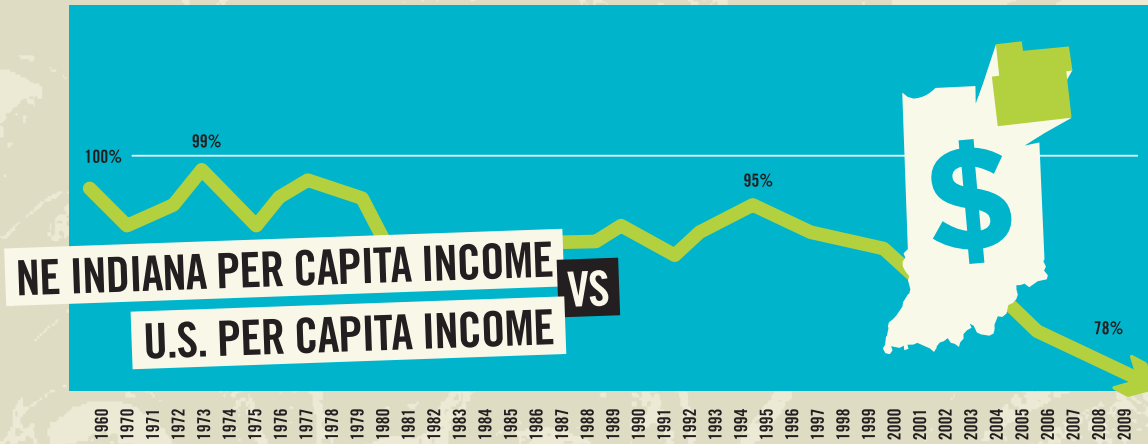
News, Issues and Events Shaping Philanthropy at the Whitley County Community Foundation

WhitleyForward

While many local residents can point to the Whitley County Community Foundation as a grant maker to area non-profits, or as a local place for donors to fulfill their charitable intent, the Foundation also has another role. It is part of our mission to address local needs and become a catalyst for change. Sometimes, the news that comes as a result of this role isn't always good. Such is the case of the information carried in this graph:

engineering and technology in the defense and biomedical industries in Northeast Indiana. To secure and retain these jobs, we must be able to deliver a skilled and knowledgeable workforce.

Believing that education is the long-term key to providing vibrant, talented workers, the Board of the Whitley County Community Foundation has committed to a bold initiative. *WhitleyForward* was



As part of Northeast Indiana, Whitley County is in the midst of an economic decline. Our per capita income has been on a downward slope for the past 15 years. What does this mean? For every \$1 the average American worker makes, we now only make 80 cents. Compare this to 1995 when local workers made 99 cents to the nation's \$1 average. This decline must be stopped and reversed. And therein rests the challenge for our community. How?

All is not bleak! The future holds great promise for careers in advanced manufacturing,

created to bolster support for STEM education through community awareness and programming that supports efforts currently underway in our schools. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, and we can't do enough to encourage educational pursuit in these areas!

In the coming months, look for exciting *WhitleyForward* workshops and activities designed to help our youth fall in love with science, tackle technology with enthusiasm, explore career opportunities in engineering, and master math. ♥

Where Do Great Scientists Get Their Start?

Why, in Pre-school, of course! **WhitleyForward** has purchased science teaching kits for use with pre-school age children. All eight of the pre-schools in Whitley County will be introducing their little ones to the fascination of science at a level they can understand. Each kit provides a number of activities and lesson plans which will keep the students busy and interested over a number of weeks. In late September, 17 pre-school teachers received training for using the kits by the science professionals who developed them. So if you have a little one in pre-school, watch out—you may have a budding scientist on your hands. ♡



Teaching the Teachers! Whitley County pre-school teachers gathered for a training session in which they learned techniques to help little minds develop a big love for science.

Look Who's Doin' It Right!

Whitko High School Embraces Biomedical Engineering

Hats off to Melissa Visalli, a former pharmaceuticals research scientist turned teacher who is introducing students (sophomores through seniors) to biomedical science as part of Project Lead the Way. The program provides students with rigorous, relevant, reality-based knowledge to prepare them for college, and perhaps a career

in biomedical engineering. Prior to 2010, Whitko did not have any students enrolled in these courses; this year 72 students are learning the Principles of Biomedicine! In addition, this is the first course to be offered for college credit at Whitko. Through the Community Foundation, **WhitleyForward** provided grant money for laptop computers and licensure with Microsoft Office to help this program unfold. It was a great investment in the future and we couldn't be prouder of this work that's unfolding in South Whitley. ♡



*Students in Melissa Visalli's Project Lead the Way Biomedical Class at Whitko High School dissect sheep hearts to learn about cardiovascular function and disease. The Community Foundation's **WhitleyForward** initiative helped make their work possible with a \$5,000 grant for the program.*

DID YOU KNOW . . .

- 49% of U.S. adults do not know how long it takes for the earth to revolve around the sun.
- The U.S. ranks 27th among developed nations in the proportion of college students receiving undergraduate degrees in science or engineering.
- Youths between the ages of 8 and 18 spend on average 7 hours a day in front of video games, tv and computers, often multi-tasking.
- When MIT put its course materials on the worldwide web, over half the users were outside the U.S.
- Almost 1/3 of U.S. manufacturing companies say they are suffering from some level of skill shortage.

- From *The National Academy of Sciences Report, The Gathering Storm Revisited.*

Engineering Meets Medicine at Indian Springs Middle School

Lego Robotics are Sports for the Mind



Members of the newly formed ISMS Robotics Team put their minds to work as they direct their robot through a series of missions.

When we hear that some Whitley County 8th grade students are learning about casting bones, screening blood, nerve mapping and installing pacemakers, we know that something great is happening!

Through the 2010 Body Forward Challenge, 8th grade students at ISMS will explore the cutting edge world of Biomedical Engineering to discover innovative ways to repair injuries, overcome genetic predispositions, and maximize

the body's potential. Through their involvement with the FIRST LEGO League Program, participating students will heighten their interest in science, math and technology, while also learning important employment and life skills such as planning, research, collaboration and marketing.

In the 2010 Body Forward Challenge, students will build robots from LEGOs and then computer program the robots to complete fourteen different missions. These missions include casting a broken bone, blood screening, applying a cardiac patch, installing a pace maker, nerve mapping, dispensing medicine, implanting a bionic eye and inserting a stent. The students also research the field of biomedical engineering, interview professionals in the field, choose a problem to solve and present a solution to the problem.

Coached by 8th grade science teacher Michelle Urban, the ISMS Robotics teams will be competing November 20th at Imagine Schools in Fort Wayne. The program has been made possible by a grant from [WhitleyForward](#). ♥

Mad Scientist to Invade Grade Schools in Whitley County!

Shortly after returning from holiday breaks, all of the elementary schools in Whitley County will be experiencing a visit by a mad scientist. Spectacular science experiments will fill the gyms with many an ooh and ahh from students in kindergarten to fifth grade. [WhitleyForward](#) is providing each of the schools with a program from Mad Science of North Central Indiana, a well-known and respected presenter of science programs for students at all levels. Their promise is “no one will be bored!” The “Mad Scientist” will visit two of our schools each of the days he’s in town and plans are being made for homeschooler’s to attend as well. The purpose



of the program is to inspire interest and curiosity about science to our young students, with the hope that their interest may carry through to a career in a science-related area. ♥

Community Input Needed to Shape a Vision for 21st Century Education in Whitley County



Dr. David Dresslar

Dr. Dresslar's informative look into the future of education will be followed by round table discussions for public input into our planning process. Please join us to help shape a shared vision of education for Whitley County!

One lucky participant will be drawn to direct a \$5,000 grant to the Whitley County

School of their choice for STEM programming and materials.

While open to the public, seating is limited to 250 and will be allotted on a first-come basis. To reserve a space, call the Community Foundation at 260-244-5224, or e-mail sepwccf@gmail.com

Join the Indiana Humanities Council and the Bowen Center for Public Affairs in a

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

The Whitley County Community Foundation presents:

A COMMUNITY DIALOGUE ON 21ST CENTURY EDUCATION

Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at 7 p.m.
Peabody Public Library 1160 E. SR 205
Columbia City, IN

Featuring Guest Speaker
Dr. David Dresslar, Executive Director of the Center of Excellence in Leadership & Learning (CELL)

OUR MISSION

It is the mission of the Whitley County Community Foundation to champion the spirit of philanthropy and generate permanent endowments. We will assess and address local needs and direct funding to best meet community aspirations.

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OUR OFFICE

400 N. Whitley Street
Columbia City, Indiana 46725
(260) 244-5224 phone
(260) 244-5724 fax
sepwccf@gmail.com



400 N. Whitley Street
Columbia City, Indiana 46725-0527

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