



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Mary Gibble, President/CEO
317.462.8870 x239
mgibble@givehcgrowhc.org



Front row, left to right: Mike Dale, Mary Gibble, Katie Ottinger, Debra Smith, Laura Haerberle, and Kathy Locke. Second row, left to right: Renee Oldham, Shelley Haney, Jason Wells, Kellie Freeman, Christine Owens, Jan Viehweg, Bryan Richards, and Retta Livengood. Third row, left to right: Brandon Badger, Libby Wyatt, Randy Sorrell, George Plisinski, Dan Riley, Dr. Harold Olin, Andy Ebbert, Andrea Mallory, Ryan Crum, Adam Zaklikowski, Bill Spalding, and Jim Rawlinson. Not pictured: Craig Felty, Keith Hiatt, Florence May, Dr. Jack Parker, Jim Robinson, and Mary Zurbuch.

Leaders Attend Prestigious Community Development Course Oct. 26-28

GREENFIELD, Ind. (November 16, 2021) – A total of 32 city, town, and county officials and leadership from throughout Hancock County, recently completed the two-and-a-half-day Community Development Course presented by Ball State University’s Indiana Communities Institute. The event was co-hosted by the Hancock County Community Foundation (HCCF) and Hancock Economic Development Council (HEDC).

“The ICI Community Development Course provided Hancock County leaders with a common community development framework,” stated Cumberland Assistant Town Manager Christine Owens. “This framework can be used to guide the county’s growth while protecting its character and heritage. I’m excited to see what new ideas will come to fruition.”

Instructors for the course were: Dr. Michael Fortunato, Creative Insight Community Development, and David Terrell and Brian Blackford with Ball State University's Indiana Communities Institute. The educational experience:

- Reflected current best practices in the field.
- Was rooted in applicable and proven research.
- Challenged participants with new and constructive paradigms.
- Utilized different and creative teaching techniques.
- Helped establish a common language and shared responsibility.
- Offered practical takeaways.

These experts led sessions, including individual and group exercises, on addressing new community development challenges and opportunities in a creative and comprehensive manner. "Companies follow people and people follow communities was a takeaway from this course," stated Leadership Hancock County Executive Director Jason Wells. "The time and dedication we use to develop our community will help guide the growth and companies that follow."

"The time and effort that the attendees gave is evidence of how much they want Hancock County to thrive," says HCCF President/CEO Mary Gible. "Class participants were very involved and will now be better prepared to engage all citizens in various initiatives making our community an even more vibrant place to live, work and play for generations to come. This course is just the first we plan to offer to convene diverse groups for the betterment of Hancock County."

HCCF provides philanthropic leadership by encouraging giving, learning, community pride and civic engagement. For more information on Hancock County Community Foundation, please visit www.growHCgiveHC.org.

###