

Discovery Mission

What You Might Not Know About Southwest Indiana

Go to any corner of Indiana and you will discover some similarities – people who are proud of their region but also willing to offer insights into what could make the area an even better place to work and live.

We did just that recently while coordinating an Economic Club of Indiana event in Evansville. In quick interviews with a handful of luncheon attendees, we asked two basic questions:

- What is one thing about Southwest Indiana that makes the region special but might not necessarily be well-known throughout the state?
- What is one thing you would like to see improved to make the area even better?



The responses include:

Keith Messmer

SPECIAL

“Locality. We are able to get to several larger cities quickly when we need to. (Also), most companies don’t need to look outside of Evansville for talent.”

EVEN BETTER

“Air travel. While we have a nice airport, it is still hard to fly to ... wherever.”



USI campus

Rob Wedding

SPECIAL

“Colleges. The University of Southern Indiana, University of Evansville and Ivy Tech serve our community well. Most people think of IU and Purdue, but we have our share of great universities.”

EVEN BETTER

“Tying in Interstate 69.”

Jim Rice

SPECIAL

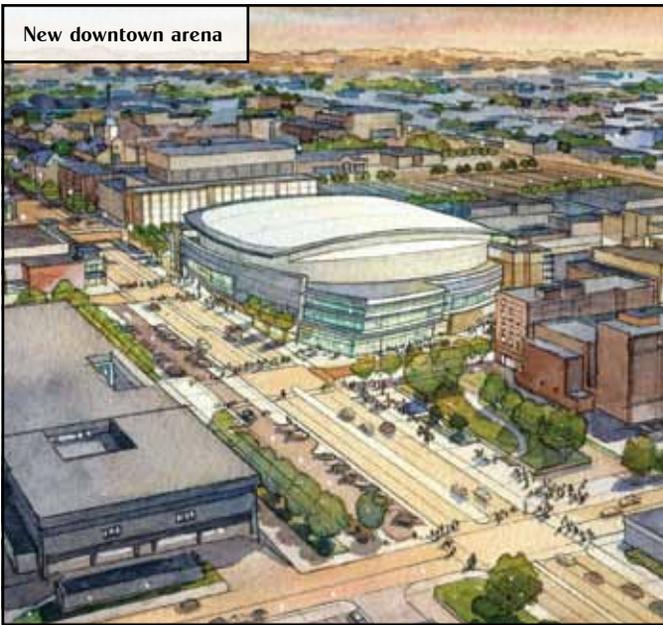
“I work all over the state of Indiana and Southwest Indiana has a more progressive attitude than people think.”

“What has happened in Evansville and outlying areas are major infrastructure improvements. Those things bring in big companies like Toyota, and they don’t happen by accident.”

“I have had great joy in working in Southwest Indiana because people really pull together.”



Toyota Highlander, built in Princeton



New downtown arena

Lucy Himstedt
 (a self-described Evansville transplant who decided to stay)

SPECIAL
 “Perfect size – you have a lot of amenities, but people know you. If you want to be involved in this community you can be, as much as you want.”

“I hear a lot about people being unwilling to change, but I don’t think that is as pervasive; you can see change happening (referencing the new downtown arena being constructed). I moved here for a job and have since switched jobs but chose one here rather than moving elsewhere.”

EVEN BETTER
 “Some people have an inferiority complex that isn’t justified. We need to improve our image among our own people. It’s not little old Evansville. There aren’t too many cities our size that have a philharmonic orchestra or new arena.”

Jeannie Trudel

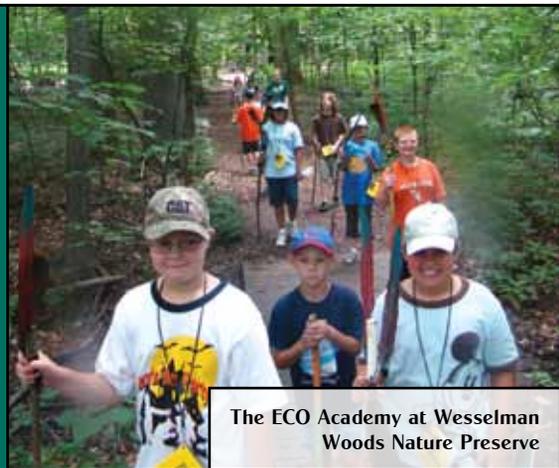
SPECIAL
 “Region offers a lot of amenities and services that a big city offers but with a small town feel.”

EVEN BETTER
 “Drawing in more businesses and finding ways to engage globally.”

Aaron Chenoweth

SPECIAL
 “We have a couple of outstanding natural treasures – Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve is minutes from downtown and Howell Wetlands is one of the largest urban wetlands in the state.”

EVEN BETTER
 “Regional sustainability. Growing our small businesses and making decisions focused on the long term, not just short term. Showing how green practices can benefit the bottom line and growth for local businesses.”



The ECO Academy at Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve



Mesker Park Zoo

Marylynn Thomlison

SPECIAL
 “People are unaware of all the things we do have – Burdette Park, a zoo with a nationally known Amazonia (rainforest) exhibit and a BMX track that brings in a huge event every year. If a family wanted to come here and spend a weekend, they could have a great time doing so.”

EVEN BETTER
 “I-69. We want to make travel here from the north part of the state easier.”

Amazonia photo by Bill Palmer