

# Wellness Council Earns National Award

The Indiana Healthy Community Initiative from the Wellness Council of Indiana recently received one of 10 national awards as part of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Health Means Business campaign.

The Healthy10 Award, in the education and workforce category, was presented at the national Health Means Business Summit. Indiana hosted one of the program's regional Health Means Business events in February 2016.

The Wellness Council of Indiana (WCI), which became a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce in 2011, created the Indiana Healthy Community Initiative to drive positive health outcomes through community partnerships. The program, similar to the WCI's workplace-focused AchieveWELL certification, offers a roadmap of best practices and guidance to community partners – including businesses, government, community organizations and citizens – to create a healthy population.

Muncie/Delaware County and Greenfield/Hancock County were early adopters of the Indiana Healthy Community Initiative. Today, a number of other Hoosier communities are in various stages of participation with the ultimate goals of improving health and advancing economic development.

The Healthy10 Awards were created by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as a way to honor 10 outstanding business-led initiatives or cross-sector collaborations.

"The Indiana Healthy Community Initiative shows what true cross-sector collaboration looks like in action," says Marc DeCourcey,



Accepting the award (from left) are Chuck Gillespie, Jane Ellery and Dr. Jerome Adams (U.S. Chamber Foundation photo).

senior vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. "This comprehensive partnership is helping improve the quality of life for the people of Indiana."

The U.S. Chamber Foundation announced the winners of the Healthy10 Awards on February 16 at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Accepting the award with Gillespie were Dr. Jerome Adams, Indiana State Health Commissioner, and Jane Ellery, Ph.D., associate professor of wellness at Ball State University and senior fellow at the Project for Public Spaces.

Visit [www.wellnessindiana.org](http://www.wellnessindiana.org) to learn more about the WCI and the Indiana Healthy Community Initiative.

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