

Southwest Ohio River Valley Region
 2008 Regional Economic Summit
 November 20 & 21, 2008
 The Centre, Evansville, IN



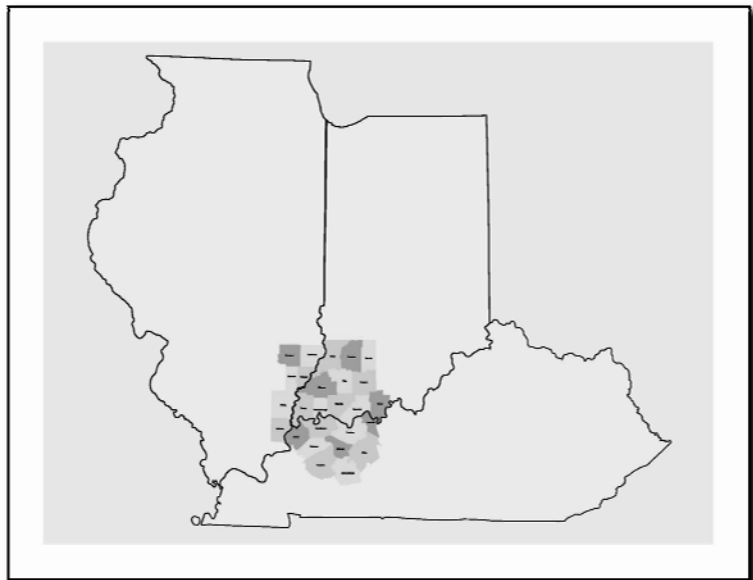
The Summit will gather together community leaders from the 26 county region to address current economic issues, future opportunities for growth, and the transformations necessary to achieve vitality and prosperity.

Focus - Over 1,000 are anticipated to attend an event focused on:

- informing the region of its current economic climate and the outlook with the existing bearing;
- assessing the new economic realities and the region's fitness to this environment; and
- envisioning the actions necessary for the *region, communities, companies, and individuals* to progress towards prosperity and economic vitality.

Themes - Summit will have themes of:

- entrepreneurialism;
- better alignment to the future economy;
- building stronger economic development agencies; and
- regional collaboration



Premise - The well-being and prosperity of the citizens of our region are inescapably linked to its economic vitality. However, the region is trailing the United States.

1995 through 2005			
Changes in Key Economic Indicators:	Population	Personal Income	Employment
United States	11.4%	66.3%	17.0%
Illinois District	-4.2%	36.0%	-10.2%
Indiana District	3.2%	60.2%	7.6%
Kentucky District	2.0%	60.2%	2.2%
Entire SW Ohio River Valley Region	2.1%	55.0%	4.3%

The organizers of the Summit recognize that the region has inherent strengths and resources that can be better nurtured and applied to enhance the local economy and the region's wellbeing. Such strengths and resources will

be realized and unleashed through an examination of the current local environment while envisioning the future world in which the region must compete and thrive in. Against this assessment, the Summit will examine paths towards cultivating an entrepreneurial atmosphere for communities, companies, and individuals. The Summit will examine the current innovation infrastructure and those resources mandated to nurture an economy based upon innovation-

driven growth. Finally, the organizers recognize the dynamics of regional collaboration and the necessity of continued improvement of the region's economic development agencies and their respective governing bodies.

Southwest Ohio Valley Region - The region is a strikingly substantial locale. It is comprised of 26 counties with a population of over 822,000 – greater than six states including Alaska, Vermont, and Wyoming. Its land area is over 9,900 square miles – greater than eight states including Maryland and Massachusetts. With total employment over 473,000, it offers more jobs than four states including North Dakota and Vermont. And, with six U.S. Congressional districts, its federal representation is greater than 26 states.

Format of Event - The event is focused on three "audiences." The following format and agenda gives a vision of how the event will flow:

	Community Segment	Company Segment	Individual Segment
Focus of the Segment	This is comprised of the economic development entities of the 26+ counties comprising the greater Evansville IN economic region. Invited will be mayors, city council members, county commissioners, chamber of commerce officers and staff, economic development agencies and other similarly charged individuals who are concerned with fostering a better economic climate of their constituents.	This is comprised of companies who are concerned with the evolving future economic environment. Not only what they must do to compete today, but what they should be expecting in the next decades and how they must be adjusting to compete, survive and thrive in this future climate.	This is comprised of individuals who wish to prepare themselves for the future economy and manage their own well being. This will include individual entrepreneurs or those who have thoughts of going independent. In addition it will include those who wish to invest in the long term and how to recognize the trends and companies that are moving in the right direction.
Day One			
10:00 – 10:29 a.m.	Registration		
10:30 a.m. - Noon	Futurist A strong presenter that will light up the audience and ignite their appreciation that the world, region, company and individual is changing. To stand still is to move backward. The future economy will be turning upside-down some of our perceptions of today and we must be engaged in understanding what we must be doing to meet the new world order.		
Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch Economic Presentation Economic presentation of the broad current region comprising the 26+ counties. The first phase is to recognize the power-house that rests in the region surrounding Evansville. It is to elaborate on the population, the economic output, the value of its own Gross Domestic Product, the sectors of industry represented and the interdependencies that exist between the region's businesses and communities. The second phase is to recognize the trends of the economic 'growth', population 'growth', the expectations of the future for the predominant industries in the region, and what 'bright-lights' exist in our area that need to be nurtured to meet the future economy.		

	Community Segment	Company Segment	Individual Segment
1:45 – 3:00 p.m.	Note: The Programs Suggested Below Are Only 'Straw Men' To Illustrate The Concept – The Advisor Board is determining the presentations.		
	SWOT Analysis Launching from the lunch presentation, better examine the interdependencies of the regional economy. What are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the regional economy?	Entrepreneurism in the work environment. How to nurture and encourage the entrepreneurial spirit from the employee base while the old-line management allows the new thoughts to change the company. Innovation does not necessarily rest within your four walls.	Investing in the new-world company How to recognize companies that are poised for the next generation of consumers and customers. How to leverage return from capital investing.
3:15 – 4:30 p.m.	Is it jobs or is it net wealth creation? What should be the focus of an economic development agency to provide the optimum return to its constituents?	Where is your leadership for tomorrow? How to attract, retain, nurture and grow management. Management succession and the development of your leader for the next twenty years.	Entrepreneurship: How does an individual exercise leadership in the face of old-line management? How to nurture the entrepreneurial mind from your subordinates. Knowing when to stand out of the way and when to intercede.
4:45 – 6:00 p.m.	How do you recognize a good economic development agency? How does the community assess a "job well done"? What should be the expectations of the community leaders of their chamber of commerce, economic development agency and the other entities charged with bolstering the economic well being of a region.	Customer satisfaction: what will it be tomorrow? New order collaboration, joint-product development, integration of MIS between the customer, the company, and the suppliers of materials. Leading the customer to solve their problems.	Leadership advancement: What is necessary to rise to the top of tomorrow's new-economy firm?
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Cocktail Party Time Allocated to Mingling and Networking Sponsors to have Private Event to Meet with Key-Note Dinner Speaker		
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Dinner Keynote Speaker Presentation Key-note address by a nationally recognized individual on a topic focusing on the current economy and how the new-world environment will be evolving. Discussion from a global perspective directing relevance to the local region facing world competition.		

	Community Segment	Company Segment	Individual Segment
	Day Two		
7:30 – 9:00 a.m.	<p>Breakfast with Presentation</p> <p>Another regional economy is the presenter describing their experiences in collaborating – the process, the trials and tribulations, and the net benefit.</p>	No Participation First Day Only	No Participation First Day Only
9:15 – 10:30 a.m.	<p>How to sell to the local voters the necessity of infrastructure investment.</p> <p>How politically to survive</p>	No Participation First Day Only	No Participation First Day Only
10:45 – 12:00 noon	<p>Round table session of the various economic development entities networking to understand how they can work together.</p>	No Participation First Day Only	No Participation First Day Only
12:15 – 1:30 p.m.	<p>Lunch Economic Development Presentation</p> <p>A leading firm with a strong history in helping national companies to find new locations for new plants describes to those gathered the criterion used to assess a new community, site and region. What makes the winners and what makes the losers. What a region or community needs to do to be on the “A” list.</p>	No Participation First Day Only	No Participation First Day Only

Overhead: The Chamber of Commerce of Southwest Indiana will act as the fiduciary vehicle that will receive all funds generated and pay from those proceeds the expenses of the event. Donations given to support the event will be tax deductible.

Funding: Regency Properties and Old National Bank have underwritten the Economic Summit with initial donations for the purpose of commencing of the planning and to support the out-of-pocket expenses of the event. The planners intend on soliciting businesses and institutions within the region to support the operating expenses as well as sponsor certain presentations and events. Those attending will be charged an admission fee.

Organization -

Steering Committee –

- Jim McKinney, Regency Properties
- Bix Branson, Old National Bank
- Mary Heitzig, Richland County Development Corporation
- Nick Brake, Greater Owensboro Kentucky Economic Development Corporation
- Greg Wathen, Southwestern Indiana Economic Development Coalition
- Matt Meadors, Chamber of Commerce of SW Indiana
- Kevin T. Shelley, Northwest Kentucky Forward
- Jim Wittman, Regency Properties (Chair of the Economic Outlook Luncheon)
- Skip Smallwood, Ameren

Board of Advisors – Each district of the region has a board of advisors drawn from their respective economic development agencies, industries, and individual civic leaders. The board is solicited to provide input to the direction and programming of the Summit and to act as ambassadors to their respective constituencies in the promotion of the event.

Event Planner – Sandra Hadley, Planning Forever Events

Administration – Shannon Hazelwood, Regency Properties