FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Greensburg workshop on community, economic development to be held April 7

Public invited to participate in all or part of day-long workshop designed to “connect the dots”

GREENSBURG, Ind.—An all-day workshop in Greensburg will bring together South Central Indiana residents, businesses and nonprofits to discuss the area’s approach to community and economic development and help chart a course of action for the future. The April 7 workshop, titled “Speaking locally: Connecting the dots in South Central Indiana,” will feature presentations and panel discussions by statewide, regional and local leaders and encourage discussion and participation from the audience.

The day will kick off with a panel discussion on Indiana’s stimulus package moderated by Gerry Dick, host of Inside INdiana Business. Panelists include Mitch Roob, Indiana Secretary of Commerce and Indiana Economic Development Corporation CEO, Kevin Brinegar, Indiana Chamber of Commerce president, and Kim Bennett, Deputy District Director for Congressman Mike Pence.

Next, Brian Payne, Central Indiana Community Foundation president, and Sharon Hollowell, Decatur County Community Foundation executive director, will discuss innovative community development strategies. Then, Greensburg Mayor Gary Herbert and other local officials will lead a discussion on opportunities for regional cooperation.

The last session of the day before participants break out into small group discussions will be focused on tourism and feature Amy Vaughan and Brian Blackford from the Indiana Office of Tourism and Melanie Maxwell, executive director of the Decatur County Visitors and Recreation Commission.

Bart Peterson, former mayor of Indianapolis and distinguished fellow for the Bowen Center for Public Affairs at Ball State University, will be the emcee.

The full-day session is open to the public as one of four 2009 regional workshops developed by the Indiana Humanities Council and the Bowen Center for Public Affairs. Participants are encouraged to come for the entire day, but are welcome to attend part of the workshop as well.

“This is a very important time for our community,” said Maxwell. “The new Honda plant has created an opportunity to transform our community and increase the quality of life and the quality of place for our residents and visitors.”

The workshop will be held at A²Z Occasions, 2020 N. Montgomery Rd., Greensburg. Registration will be at 8:30 a.m., and the workshop will run from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. with a lunch break. There is no charge for the event itself, but there is a $10 charge for lunch and registration is required. To RSVP, contact Melanie Maxwell at info@visitgreensburg.com or 877.883.5447.
About the 2009 regional workshops
The Greensburg workshop is being presented through a program offered by the Bowen Center for Public Affairs and the Indiana Humanities Council. Regions from across the state applied to host community workshops to discuss issues vital to their regions. Applications focused on one of four key areas: Green Agenda/Sustainability; Community/Economic Development; Arts and Culture as a Community Development Strategy; or Local Government Reform.

This workshop is the second of four regional workshops. Other workshops will be held in Elkhart and Madison County; a series of workshops were held in Evansville and Jasper on local government reform in March.

Also participating in the workshops will be Bowen Center for Public Affairs Co-directors Sally Jo Vasicko and Ray Scheele and Indiana Humanities Council President Keira Amstutz.

After the workshops, the Bowen Center for Public Affairs will continue to help participating regions with access to resources and provide ongoing consultation. Several organizations already have joined the Bowen Center and Humanities Council in offering statewide expertise and resources:

- Indiana Chamber of Commerce
- Association of Indiana Counties
- Indiana Association of Cities and Towns
- Inside Indiana Business with Gerry Dick

Local partners include:
- City of Greensburg
- Decatur County
- Decatur County Tourism
- Downtown Greensburg Development Corporation
- Greensburg/Decatur County Economic Development Corporation
- Greensburg/Decatur County Chamber of Commerce
- Arts and Cultural Council of Decatur County
- Heart of the Tree City, Inc.

About the Indiana Humanities Council
The Indiana Humanities Council celebrates, encourages and facilitates the thinking that leads to innovation and action. As a convener, leader and partner, the Council supports the sharing of ideas, promotes the public humanities and engages Indiana’s community of minds to examine and improve the human condition. Learn more at www.indianahumanities.org.

About the Bowen Center for Public Affairs
The Bowen Center for Public Affairs at Ball State University advances the ideals of civic literacy, community involvement, and public service exemplified by the career of Dr. Otis R. Bowen. The center leads the way in Indiana toward an energized citizenry and vital community life.

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SPEAKING LOCALLY: CONNECTING THE DOTS IN SOUTH CENTRAL INDIANA
AGENDA

A2Z Occasions, 2020 North Montgomery Road
GREENSBURG, INDIANA
APRIL 7, 2009

8:30 a.m.  Registration

9:00 a.m.  Welcome
Honorable Gary Herbert, Mayor of Greensburg
Honorable Bart Peterson, Distinguished Fellow, Bowen Center for Public Affairs, former mayor of Indianapolis

9:15 a.m.  Connecting the Dots: What Does the Stimulus Package Mean for South Central Indiana?
Moderator:  Gerry Dick, host of Inside INdiana Business
Mitch Roob, Indiana Secretary of Commerce and Chief Executive Officer, Indiana Economic Development Corporation
Kevin Brinegar, Indiana Chamber of Commerce President
Kim Bennett, Deputy District Director, Congressman Mike Pence

10:30 a.m.  Break

10:45 a.m.  Connecting the Dots: Innovative Community Development Strategies
Sharon Hollowell, Executive Director, Decatur County Community Foundation
Brian Payne, President, Central Indiana Community Foundation

11:45 a.m.  Lunch
Connecting the Dots: Opportunities for Regional Cooperation in Community/Economic Development
Honorable Gary Herbert, Mayor of Greensburg
Other local officials, TBD

12:45 p.m.  Break

1:00 p.m.  Connecting the Dots: Using Unique Local Assets to Attract Visitors and Improve Quality of Life
Amy Vaughan, Director of Indiana Office of Tourism Development
Brian Blackford, Development Director, Indiana Office of Tourism Development
Melanie Maxwell, Executive Director of the Decatur County Visitors and Recreation Commission

2:00 p.m.  Breakout Sessions
Economic/Community development: What are our goals?
Economic/Community development: How to continue connecting the dots?

2:45 p.m.  Breakout Session Reports and Wrap up
Local partners include: City of Greensburg, Decatur County, Downtown Greensburg Development Corporation, Greensburg/Decatur County Economic Development Corporation, Greensburg/Decatur County Chamber of Commerce, Arts and Cultural Council of Decatur County, Heart of the Tree City, Inc.

Statewide partners include: Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Association of Indiana Counties, Association of Cities and Towns, Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick.