

INSIDE

November 2021

Vermilion County

Young Professionals Network Relaunched in Vermilion County



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INSIDE

Vermilion County

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Vermilion Advantage, through membership value, provides strategic leadership on critical large and small business issues - leading economic and workforce development, anticipating and responding to members' needs, addressing quality of life issues and providing a network of information and business contacts. Vermilion Advantage works regionally to bring opportunities to Danville and Vermilion County.

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Inside Vermilion County is a monthly publication created by Vermilion Advantage to showcase our members and share good news about Vermilion County. Each issue is mailed to all Vermilion Advantage members and over 1,000 copies are distributed throughout Vermilion County.

VERMILION COUNTY JOB BOARD

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DACC Offers In-Demand Wind Energy Program

Danville Area Community College (DACC) is leading the way to careers in one of America's fastest-growing fields - Wind Energy. "There is no shortage of job opportunities, and there are openings all across the nation," says Greg Hansbraugh, DACC Alternative Energy Instructor. "The pay for Alternative Energy Techs is high, and techs possessing the desired skills are in short supply for the job market."

DACC offers a Wind Energy Technician Program, the only one of its kind in Illinois. In the two-year AAS degree program, students are trained extensively in hands-on application. The program also includes Solar Energy training for a comprehensive, combined renewables education. The program begins in both the Fall and Spring semesters.

"We employ some of the safest equipment to work from heights for



any industry," adds Hansbraugh. "We had several students who were afraid or uncomfortable with heights overcome that feeling." Students learn the skills needed on the actual equipment and tooling they'll find in the field. By earning the AAS, successful graduates can expect to find immediate job opportunities. The skills developed over the two-year program are a significant asset to employers, and graduates are prepared for faster industry advancement.

Did you know . . .
Danville Area Community College delivers the only hands-on Wind Energy Technician Associate Degree Program in the State of Illinois.

"We have worked very hard at teaching the classes as a hands-on, comprehensive, skill-laden program," he says. "This has paid off as we have employers actively seeking our graduates. I get calls and emails regularly looking for our skilled workers. We are proud to have our students trained to a level that they are in demand."

Hansbraugh says anyone who is mechanically inclined, likes mechanical or electrical troubleshooting, employs critical thinking skills, and has a personal desire to work in an industry that directly affects the environment in a positive way would be a great candidate for the program. He says both men and women do well in the program.

Technicians can work at one location or may choose to travel. Traveling techs often earn higher pay and/or per diem allowances to compensate them for travel. Techs generally start in an entry-level position as a Level I tech and quickly advance to Level II techs, Crew Leads, and Lead Techs. The opportunity for further advancement is high.

Graduates typically start between \$20-24 per hour, with traveling techs making more. After a year or two in the field, techs can expect to earn \$25-30 per hour and even more in specialized positions.

Several wind farms are in or near Vermilion County, and many employ DACC graduates. GE, Vestas, Siemens, and Mitsubishi are among the organizations employing on-site technicians. IEA and Duke Energy hire traveling technicians.

Employees for the positions are in great demand. By 2023, a 40% deficit in skilled workers for wind/solar jobs is projected.

About DACC

Hansbraugh says the excitement and enthusiasm of DACC students are better than any caffeine drink he could consume. "The energy they give while doing tasks they love is awesome. Most of all, I enjoy the feedback and excitement of graduates working in the field who share their success stories, adventures, and achievements with me. I love being a part of their success."



To learn more about the Danville Area Community College Wind Energy Technician program, contact Greg Hansbraugh by email at ghansbraugh@dacc.edu or phone at 217-443-8579. He adds, "Or stop in the Tech Center and ask for the Wind Guy."



Witzels Open New McDonald's in Covington, Indiana

Don and Deanna Witzel love being a part of every community where they do business. The local McDonald's Owner/Operators added to their family of restaurants by opening a new store in Covington, Indiana.

"Covington has been very friendly and welcoming," said the Witzels. "We love how active and involved the residents of Covington are in their community. Mayor Brad Crain approached us and was determined Covington would be a great place to open a new McDonald's. We love being a part of small towns, so we were excited at the prospect. Although it took longer than anticipated, we are thrilled to be open!"

The newest McDonald's is located at 221 Pearl Street in Covington, IN. The restaurant features the latest McDonald's equipment, including a conveyor belt that delivers hot, fresh sandwiches to the loading zone where the crew bags the product to hand out to customers. A photo showing the former gas station that once was located at this spot hangs in the vestibule. Fifty-five people are currently employed in Covington, a number that will grow as new crew members, managers, and maintenance are added.

The Witzels and their team have hit the ground running. "We are excited about our student and athlete of the month partnership with Covington High School. We have also supported the band program," says Don. They have joined the Covington Business Association, participated in the Coffeenians Golf Outing and Applefest, supported the upcoming Covington Nursery School 5K, and will have a table set up for the CBA Ghost Walk.

Special Days and Celebrations

The week before the ribbon-cutting, the restaurant opened three hours a day to give employees practice before the official opening. Different groups from the Covington area were invited to stop by and receive special deals. Some of the participating groups were Covington city employees, first

responders, local businesses, educators and support staff, and non-profit organizations.

The ribbon cutting and official opening was held on September 28th. The event began with the presentation of flags by the local chapter of the VFW and the National Anthem, sung by Rick Randles. Mike Hulvey of Neuhoff Media emceed, and Mayor Crain and the Witzels addressed the crowd. Marlea Crain joined Rick Randles in singing some local favorites. The ribbon was cut by 99 ½-year-old Covington resident Bill Grubb, Mayor Crain, VFW members, long-time McDonald's customer Marshall Cox, Don and Deanna Witzel and their staff of Tom Orrick, Rob Witzel and Charlie Jeffers. The VFW was presented with the ribbon containing 300 one-dollar bills as a donation.

Family

Customers and staff become a part of the Witzel family. "We were so touched by the number of loyal customers that came to our Grand Opening at Covington. Marshall Cox, a long-time customer, stayed up all night so he wouldn't miss it!" says Deanna. "Many of our regular customers become like



family. Marshall and his wife Joyce drove all the way to Peoria, IL, to attend my mom's funeral. We were honored we could have Bill Grubb help with the ribbon cutting and be our first customer, along with Mayor Crain."

The Witzels now own seven McDonald's and employ 350 local residents. They have three locations in Danville – South Gilbert, North Vermilion, and Bowman Avenue - and four other locations - Oakwood, Georgetown, Hoopeston, and the new Covington restaurant.

Don began working for McDonald's in 1980, and Deanna started her career in 1982. Both started as crew and quickly began working their way up through management. The Witzels met while both were working at McDonald's in Las Vegas, NV, married and moved to Danville, IL after purchasing four McDonald's restaurants in Danville, Oakwood and Hoopeston.

Learn More

Covington McDonald's is hiring in all positions- crew members, management, and maintenance. Some employee benefits include free uniforms, free meals, flexible schedule, competitive pay, paid time off (PTO), college tuition reimbursement, scholarships, training and development, 401k, and the opportunity to grow.

To apply text code IN442 to 38000, McHire.com, or pick up a paper application at the restaurant.

Follow them on Facebook @Witzel McDonald's to learn more about any of their locations.



Toni Stone – State Farm Insurance Agent



Toni Stone is clear about what matters most to her as a State Farm agent. “I have worked with many customers over the years,” she says. “Oftentimes, I am needed when a tragedy has occurred. Even though it can be very heart-wrenching, being there when people need you the most can also be very rewarding.”

Stone is an agent who sells all lines of insurance, including Auto, Home, Life, and Medicare Supplements. Her office also offers small business insurance. She currently has three staff members, Janie Baker, Lisa Blue and Amanda Cord and is looking for a 4th person to join the team. Her office is located at 711 Oak St. in Danville.

Having been a State Farm Agent for 36 ½ years, she says technology has been the most significant change in the insurance industry. “We can now write most lines of insurance over the phone or online,” she says. “I still like meeting people face to face, but for those that prefer doing business online or over the phone, we can accommodate everyone!”

Customer service is what makes the Stone team unique. “We go the extra mile to make sure all of your insurance transactions and claims go as smooth as possible,” says Stone. “My customers are like my family. I am now

enjoying seeing 3rd generation family members come into the office for insurance.”

She gives back to the community in a myriad of ways. She serves as Board President of Danville Area Visitors Bureau and on the council at her church. She is also a member of the Danville Executive Club and volunteers at various events throughout the year.

Having lived in the community for 55 years, she believes the county's greatest strength is the people who volunteer and care so much for area citizens. “We have a lot of very caring and giving people that are always trying to make Vermilion County a better place to live.”

Stone is looking forward to meeting and working with other members of Vermilion Advantage. “I hope to learn new ideas and ways to improve my business as well as help my younger team members develop with the leadership classes and young professional meetings,” she adds.

To learn more about Toni Stone State Farm Insurance Agency, follow them on Facebook @ToniStoneStateFarm or visit Tonistone.net. You may also call 217-443-1500 or email toni@tonistone.net.

City of Danville Names Ashton Greer as its first Community Relations Administrator

A familiar face has accepted a new role as the lead communicator for the City of Danville. Ashton Greer was recently selected as Community Relations Administrator. The position is new for Greer as well as the City. Her priorities include social media, communication with citizens, City events such as festivals and downtown events, neighborhood association development, and quality of life projects for Danville citizens.

“This position is all about strengthening relationships – between the city and the citizens, between neighbors, and from organization to organization,” says Greer. “Through this work, I get to be a part of creating memorable experiences and traditions within our City, and those are the things that make a town a hometown. Community Relations is important because the City needs to hear from the community and know how to best support the many initiatives that are taking place throughout Danville.”

The position creates a liaison between citizens and the City. Greer's goal is to help area residents and organizations connect with the City and help the City better understand how to meet residents' needs. One part of this work will be supporting neighborhood associations.

Another aspect of her role is helping create experiences and traditions that enhance the quality of life for citizens. Greer hopes to create meaningful events that become traditions in our area, create lasting memories, and strengthen local businesses. “Because I can dedicate so much of my time to these events, they will become



something citizens can come to expect year after year – they are events we can all look forward to,” she says. “I hope that they bring fun times and relaxation to citizens and draw people in from all around. I hope our children can look back when they are adults and reminisce about all of the amazing experiences they had in their

hometown. If we build upon them year after year, businesses can rely on them as recurring events. These events have great potential to bolster our economy and add a layer of support to our local businesses. Events bring people together, and our shared experiences can change our City's culture for the better.”

Upcoming Events

November 5th – Potterfest in Downtown Danville, 5-8 PM
TBD – Downtown Danville Lighting Ceremony
December 3rd – Carriage Rides from Noon – 4 with Night of Lights Parade at 5 PM
December 3rd and 4th – Christmas Bazaar at County Administration Building on North Vermilion

First Friday events are in the works for the entire 2022 year in Downtown Danville! Every First Friday of the month, a fun event will bring people to the Downtown District. This schedule should be out in December of 2021!

To learn more, visit cityofdanville.org, follow them on Facebook @DiscoveringDanville and @The-City-of-Danville-IL-100204372401781, or Instagram @OurCityDanville. For specific questions, email Ashton Greer agreer@cityofdanville.org.

I am, You are, We are.

“I started thinking about this project months before I accepted this position. People are so quick to communicate the negative things that happen, and so rarely do we hear about all the wonderful people and the wonderful things they do for Danville. I shared this thought with Nicole Van Hyfte of Vermilion Advantage over lunch my first week on the job, and she had been thinking the same thing. We decided to tag-team the effort and formed a partnership between The City of Danville and Vermilion Advantage.

“I am, You are, We are” is an effort to shine a light on the people who bring positive change in Danville and Vermilion County. Every week, an individual is featured on Facebook, Instagram, and in The Commercial News in a column telling a bit of their story and how they have contributed to their community. I am so excited about this! We all have a choice to be the good or not. I hope these stories will inspire everyone who reads them to give back to their community.”

To nominate a friend or neighbor, complete the Google form at <https://forms.gle/BrCLZg8yykExt4fG8>. To follow the stories about community difference makers, follow them on Facebook and Instagram @iamyouarewearevc.

Meet Ashton Greer, Community Relations Administrator for the City of Danville

How long have you been employed by the City? Since August 2021

How long have you lived in Vermilion County? Since I was 18 (13 years).

What are you most excited about related to the Community Relations position? I love event planning. I love bringing people together for shared experiences. I believe experiences change our beliefs, and I know that creating positive experiences for people in Danville will begin to shift their beliefs about this City.

What have you found is the most rewarding part of your job? I enjoy the challenge of pulling something together. That moment when I can look around and see people connecting and having a meaningful experience is worth every bit of stress that occurred leading up to the moment.

Also, I have truly enjoyed the many conversations I have had with citizens. It brings me so much joy to help them



answer their questions, get them to the right place, follow up and show them someone really cares.

Tell us about what it's like to work with the City team. The City is a complex organization with several divisions and teams within teams, so I still have so many people to meet. I

have been genuinely impressed with the leaders in each department and how much they give and invest in this community. Everyone truly cares, and I am in good company with my fellow leaders. I am most surprised by how supported I am in my ideas and creativity. There is a good culture of trust, and innovation is valued.

Tell us about your family. Where to begin... I owe so much to my parents who have always shown me endless love and support. My mom is my rock and role model. I learned from her how to dream, extend empathy in every circumstance, and the importance of being both strong and approachable. I have been married to my husband, Jared, for 12 years. I met him when I was 12 years old, and we got married at 18. He is steady and loyal and loves our family so faithfully. He is a Danville Police Officer. We have three sons: Roman (9), Jameson (7), and Solomon (4). These three boys are a source of endless joy, and they make me so proud.

Young Professionals Network Relunched in Vermilion County



Nicole Van Hyfte, Community Development Coordinator for Vermilion Advantage, can't wait to watch the newly relaunched Young Professionals Network (YPN) become a strong force in Vermilion County. YPN, led by Van Hyfte, is a group of people working toward becoming the next generation of Vermilion County leaders. "We can learn from each other, and we can learn where the needs are within our community where we can make a difference," she says.

The Young Professionals Network brings together young Vermilion County professionals to socialize, network, and volunteer. YPN gives young people the opportunity to grow personally and professionally as well as advance the community.



Van Hyfte says age isn't the deciding factor for who should attend. "We have not set an age limit. When I restarted the YPN, I wanted to see who would show up. I would say our group is made up of mostly 'under 50' folks. However, if you feel like you're a young professional and are 'over 50,' please join us!"

The YPN started monthly meetings in August. The initial meeting involved plenty of opportunities for the group to chart a course for the future. A brainstorming activity resulted in the organization's new motto: Community change by unified example. The group also decided to begin as a social/networking group and see how it evolves. Two new committees will launch in early 2022: an activities committee and a project/volunteering committee. The activities committee will focus on group/family activities outside of the lunches. The project/volunteering committee will work on how YPN can make the most significant impact in the community. "We have talked about being available to help volunteer wherever is needed as well as take on projects of our own, such as build a Habitat House



or something along those lines," adds Van Hyfte.

The September meeting included a midday cookout on the Turtle Run patio with guest speakers Jeanie Cooke from the Danville Area Visitors' Bureau and Mary Surprenant from United Way. The most recent meeting was a tasting buffet at Whipper Snappers with guest speakers Peter Blackmon from the Danville Library Foundation and Annie Monyok from Monyok Leadership. Van Hyfte likes to include both a seasoned community leader and a peer leader as speakers at the luncheons.

The next luncheon is set for Tuesday, November 9th at 11:30 am at Vermilion River Beer Company featuring a

special menu from Lovin' Cup Food Truck. December's luncheon includes a coffee and conversations morning at the Vermilion Regional Airport as well as an Ugly Christmas Sweater party at Big Thorn Farm & Brewery.

Van Hyfte says new members are greeted with great enthusiasm. "We would love to have you!" she says. "Send your contact information to Nicole Van Hyfte at nvanhyfte@vermilionadvantage.com and I will get you on our email list. Through the email group, you will receive all the information on upcoming events, as well as great volunteering opportunities."



The Young Professionals Network is one of the many community growth and engagement programs developed by Vermilion Advantage. Van Hyfte says her favorite story about the relaunch of YPN involved the energetic, fun-loving, and self-described "over 50" Vermilion Advantage CEO Tim Dudley. "When we first got going, I did an interview with Tommy B on The Big Show on D102," says Van Hyfte. "Tommy asked me what the age limit was to join the YPN. I responded, 'Well, Tim Dudley will be there!' We had a good laugh about it, and Tim has not let me live that comment down."



"The best part of YPN for me is being able to interact and network with peers who may not be in the same industry like myself, but they are facing many of the same challenges both professionally and personally. It's refreshing to discuss issues with others who know exactly what you're going through because they have dealt with something similar or are currently dealing with a similar issue."

For our business, the value is enormous. Obviously, there is the benefit of getting more work and expanding the brand, but there is an added benefit of forming partnerships and connections with other members of the community who may be able to help us out in ways we hadn't previously considered."

Austin Noon, ServPro

What Attendees are Saying about the Young Professionals Network

"The Young Professionals Network, for me personally, gives me a great sense of community. It is great to see such a large group of young professionals eager to positively impact Vermilion County."

The Young Professionals Network gives our organizations here in Vermilion County a sense of comfort because we can tell the future is bright with great stewards of business. We know our businesses and our communities will be taken care of."

Ross Darby, Sunset Funeral Homes / Trigard | Hall of Fame Plaques & Signs

"I think it's inspiring to see so many Millennials in leadership positions in our county. For those of us who grew up here and are now in these positions, I think it will be exciting to see how we can help shape Vermilion County for the next generations. As for the Library, we've already been able to connect with organizations to help spread advocacy for the library. We'll be working with the Housing Authority soon and we've had discussions with United Way, which came about from staff attending YPN events."

I encourage anyone who considers themselves a "young professional" in Vermilion County to come to an event. This is a great opportunity to make a positive impact and make connections. We are just getting started, so it's the perfect time to get involved."

Jennifer Hess, Danville Public Library

Catlin Bank Gives Back to Customers and the Community

Catlin Bank has quietly grown into an area leader serving financial customers and giving back to local communities. This summer, the bank found a new way to support local businesses and provide an event people of all ages could enjoy.

"We decided to do an ice cream giveaway during the 4th of July weekend at The Dairy Barn, Lainey's Ice Cream, Mike's Chill, and Custard Cup," says Jeff Fauver, CEO. "We had such a positive response we decided to do the promotion again in August to celebrate the end of summer and send kids back to school with a treat. For the second promotion, we partnered with Andi Mae's Ice Cream Shoppe in Bismarck and Obie's Arctic Chill in Oakwood." In total, over 1,000 people participated in the first event. The second event brought more than double that number.

Fauver says the reasons for the event were simple. "We wanted to highlight some great local businesses and help give them a boost. We also wanted to give back to the community."

Catlin Bank is proud to be a community bank that offers personal service delivered by local staff the area knows and trusts. Catlin Bank provides a full range of personal banking services, including residential mortgages, construction loans and various consumer loans, direct deposit, IRAs, certificates of deposits, online

banking, debit cards and bank by phone. To assist commercial customers, Catlin Bank offers loans through the Small Business Administration. Additional commercial products include lines of credit, commercial mortgages, construction loans, term loans, business debit cards and cash management services.

The main bank is in Catlin, IL, with a branch in Georgetown. ATMs are in Catlin, Georgetown, and Danville. The bank employs 21 people, 17 of whom work in Catlin.

Construction is underway to consolidate the Catlin operations. The renovations to the existing drive-up building will add 6,375 square feet. The new facility, scheduled to open in Spring of 2022, will include wider and taller drive lanes to accommodate large SUVs and trucks and lower lobby counters to accommodate wheelchair customers.

Relationship Banking

Catlin Bank understands the importance of building relationships with customers and the community. "It's not just a marketing gimmick," says Fauver. "We're here to help people achieve their financial goals—whether it be small business ownership or homeownership. We are one of the last community banks left in our county and take pride in being able to offer the same technology and services as larger

banks while at the same time being able to design unique loan scenarios."

In the last few years, the bank has stepped up its support of local communities, organizations and events. At the Tilton Spooktacular, the bank hosted a strawbale maze for the kids, a fall photo



backdrop for pictures, and served fresh popcorn. They supported the First Church of Christ in Georgetown's school supplies event to benefit students in need. Instead of only donating financially, the team turned the event into a drive. They collected two trunks full of school supplies, and the bank matched all the donations made. They also volunteered and sponsored at Balloons over Vermilion. The sponsorship included a hot air balloon ride for two, which the bank gave to two lucky community members.

They've given donuts to area realtors to celebrate National Donut Day, delivered Easter baskets and lunches to the residents and staff of Liberty Village, and supported many area school and organization fundraisers.

In 2020 due to COVID-19, the team found creative ways to interact with the community. "We did a small drink giveaway for all individuals at Mad Goat Coffee in Spring 2020," says Fauver. "We also enlisted the help of two local photographers to travel around Catlin in Spring 2020 and take family pictures for any families that wanted them in Catlin. More than 100 families participated in having pictures taken on their front porches."

To learn more about Catlin Bank, visit catlinbank.com or follow them on Facebook @CatlinBank.





RE/MAX Ultimate Serving Area Real Estate Buyers and Sellers

The real estate industry experienced many changes in the last few years. “Years ago, the multiple listing service published monthly booklets with the houses that were for sale,” says Auston Surprenant, Designated Managing Broker/Owner of RE/MAX Ultimate. “With the evolution of the internet and websites like Zillow and Realtor.com, the booklets quickly went away and now all of the listings are available online with easy access. We now use special cameras capable of creating video walkthroughs of the properties and drones for overhead pictures.”

RE/MAX Ultimate is a full-service real estate company assisting buyers and sellers with their homes and commercial properties. They have 16 licensed real estate agents. All are licensed in Illinois, with some also licensed in Indiana. Located at 2722 N Vermilion in Danville, RE/MAX Ultimate started in 2017 and has been in its current location since 2018.

RE/MAX Ultimate is part of a worldwide network of real estate agents that brings together buyers and sellers from across the globe. “Our agents are highly skilled and genuinely care about every client,” he says. “We strive to stay on the leading edge of technology and service. We can create 3D video walkthroughs of our homes, shoot drone pictures from above, and create exclusive marketing materials. One new and exciting project we are working on is the ability to give lake tours from our office. This way, clients can view the house from a boat on the lake and see what other lake properties are available.”

One of Surprenant's favorite stories illustrates his love for the work. “I once had a first-time home buyer crying at the closing,” he says. “She was so excited to be purchasing her first home; she didn't think she would ever be able to do it. We helped her secure financing and found her the perfect home. Those types of experiences remind me why I am in this industry. You really can make a difference in someone's life.”

Local Outlook

In 2021, the real estate market started strong, with home prices at an all-time high and not enough houses for all the



“We want to help sell our community. We have so many wonderful assets in Vermilion County and the surrounding areas.”

buyers. This led to rising prices and bidding wars. “Now that we are in the 4th quarter of 2021, we are seeing the market cool off,” he says. “There still seems to be more buyers than houses available, but the housing prices and frantic buying has slowed way down. I believe we will continue to see more homes come on the market as the foreclosure moratorium is lifted, putting more inventory on the market and bringing prices down to a more normal level.”

There has been an increased interest in one-level houses as many area buyers are nearing retirement age. The average sale price for homes in Vermilion County is near \$90,000. Surprenant adds that well-maintained houses, priced at \$65,000-\$200,000, are popular in this market.

Commercial real estate sales slowed down throughout the pandemic. Retail stores and restaurants were deeply affected, and many employers now allow staff to work from home. He hopes local incentives will encourage new businesses and commercial real estate sales.

Advice

Buyers are encouraged to get preapproved through a lender. “Whenever a buyer is ready to purchase a home, knowing what type of financing they have is important because we will need that information for the purchase agreement,” he says. “I also like my buyers to make a list of must-haves and wants. When you check off about 85% of the list, we are ready to make an offer. There is no perfect house, and most often, the buyer will need to make some changes to make it their home.”

Surprenant advises sellers to be aware of market conditions. “Making simple repairs and cleaning up the property can make a world of difference,” he says. “One key item in this market is not to overprice your home. Buyers are savvy, and the market changes rapidly. If you price your house too high, then it will sit on the market and possibly even go stale.”

To learn more about RE/Max Ultimate, follow them on Facebook @RE/Max Ultimate – Danville, visit their office at 2722 N Vermilion in Danville or call 217-431-7000.

Coopetition: The Next Step Towards Vermilion County's Bright Future



Vermilion Advantage CEO Tim Dudley coined a new term for a process designed to improve workforce development locally. Coopetition – a blend of competition and cooperation – is a creative approach to bring employers together to work towards common goals.

Coopetition is a two-part project tackling the social and economic challenges in workforce development. “First, Coopetition brings talented competitors together to study the social infrastructure in our community that supports a strong labor force,” says Dudley. “The Coopetition Coalition surveyed the community, job seekers and educators in Vermilion County. With the collected data, the employers will come together in a workshop to determine community infrastructure needs. Next, the participating employers break off to focus on their employee retention. They will study historical data trends, survey employees and host focus groups to best understand their workforce needs.”

The idea originated from a recent IMIN event where manufacturing employers discussed recruitment and retention concerns related to COVID. At that event, the Coopetition leadership team heard employers asking for support.

The Coopetition leadership team includes Dudley and Nicole Van Hyfte,

From top to bottom:

Earle Steiner, Director of IL Small Business Development Center at DACC
 Tim Dudley, CEO of Vermilion Advantage
 Nicole Van Hyfte, Community Development Coordinator of Vermilion Advantage
 Brittany Woodworth, Senior Director of Corporate Education at DACC
 Amanda English, Safety, Training & Continuous Improvement Manager at Watchfire
 Stephanie Yates, Customized Training Coordinator of Corporate Education at DACC
 Annie Monyok, Owner of Monyok Leadership

Not Pictured: Nicholas Catlett and Brian Hensgen, American Jobs Center, Mike Gragert, Watchfire Signs, and Jonathan Jett, Vermilion County Works.

Vermilion Advantage; Earle Steiner, Illinois Small Business Development Center at Danville Area Community College (DACC); Brittany Woodworth and Stephanie Yates, DACC; Amanda English and Mike Gragert, Watchfire Signs; Annie Monyok, Monyok Leadership; Nicholas Catlett and Brian Hensgen, American Jobs Center; and Jonathan Jett, Vermilion County Works.

The first round focused on the manufacturing industry. Participating employers are Trigard, Quaker Oats, Viscofan, Mervis Industries, Flex-N-Gate, Fiberteq, thyssenkrupp Crankshaft, thyssenkrupp Presta (Dynamic Components), and Danville Metal Stamping.

Annie Monyok of Monyok Leadership said the initiative's advantage is two-fold. "The primary intention is to improve the community infrastructure that supports workers," she says. "Employers benefit directly from a robust workforce and act as stakeholders in developing our community to support workers. The second benefit is employers have access to support and resources to evaluate their workforce satisfaction and implement actions to meet employee expectations." Employers are already benefiting from networking and learning from one another.

Currently, employers are in the throes of the data collection part of the project. They are hosting employee

focus groups, collecting historical data and conducting employee surveys.

"One of the survey's most valuable early results is learning that manufacturing is highly regarded as a vital part of the local economy. Additionally, the results show the community has a positive perception of the manufacturing industry. "With a history of industry relocating out of Danville when GM and Hyster left in the 80s and 90s, we weren't certain the reputation of manufacturing had been restored," adds Monyok. "While there is certainly an opportunity to improve, we were pleased with the overall perception of industry in our community!"

"There is a passion in this community to change and succeed! Vermilion County is blessed with beautiful parks and recreation areas that I believe are second to none. We also have many young professional leaders whom I am very impressed with and will help mentor them into being our next generation of leaders in Danville and Vermilion County."

Tim Dudley, CEO, Vermilion Advantage

About Vermilion Advantage & Vermilion County

As a newer resident of Vermilion County, Dudley brings a fresh view of Vermilion County's many strengths.

"It's people, passion, great leadership across the board, innovative manufacturers, new areas being developed, possible Lake Vermilion development, and just the overall winning attitude being fostered here!" he says.

Vermilion Advantage is the area's Economic Development/Chamber of Commerce organization, specializing in helping large and small businesses grow and thrive and recruiting new companies and employees. They are a team of five, serving hundreds of businesses across Vermilion County.

The team includes Tim Dudley, CEO; Mabelle Dykes, Chamber Operations/Membership Director; Rachel Haun, Office Manager; Jo Doggett, Data and Finance Director; and Nicole Van Hyfte, Community Development Coordinator.

Membership in Vermilion Advantage offers effective networking tools such as Business After Hours, Business and Networking Luncheon, Young Professionals Network, feature stories in *Inside Vermilion County* magazine, bulk email blasts, social media visibility and many other benefits to help market your business.

To learn more, contact Tim Dudley or Nicole Van Hyfte at Vermilion Advantage, visit the newly redesigned vermilionadvantage.com and follow them on Facebook @VermilionAdvantage.



ALL A's ACCOLADES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ACHIEVEMENTS

**Don and Deanna Witzel,
Owner/Operators of the Witzel
Family McDonald's have
announced Employees, Students
and Athletes of the Month**



October Employee of the Month

Hometown Stars McDonald's.....Barb Watson
 Classic Rock-n-Roll.....Tina Bratton
 Oakwood.....Noah Gentsch
 Georgetown.....Tina Tapscott
 Hoopeston.....Seth Dowler
 Neighborhood McDonald's.....Izaneah Hubbard
 Covington, IN.....Zoe Badger

October Student/Athlete of the Month:

Danville High School Student of the Month.....Alexis Brown
 Danville High School Athlete of the Month.....Ava Town

 Schlarman Academy North Student of the Month.....Brycie Carnahan
 Schlarman Academy North Athlete of the Month.....Lauren Barnette

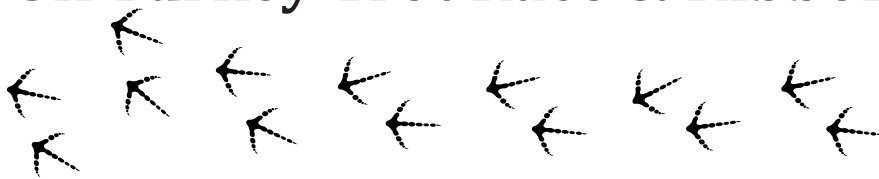
 Oakwood Student of the Month.....Natalie Garrison
 Oakwood Athlete of the Month.....Gaven Clouse

 Georgetown Student of the Month.....Allie Cobble
 Georgetown Athlete of the Month.....Rylan Mossier

 Hoopeston Area High School Student of the Month.....Kylie Pickett
 Hoopeston Area High School Athlete of the Month.....Anthony Zamora

 Covington High School Student of the Month.....Grace Wright
 Covington High School Athlete of the Month.....Alan Karrfalt

5k Turkey Trot Race & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Saturday, Nov. 20th, 2021 at 9am

At Oakwood Area Food Pantry 202 S. Scott St. Oakwood

The Oakwood Area Food Pantry would like to encourage your family to start a new tradition this Thanksgiving! We invite you to participate in the 8th Annual OAFP Turkey Trot. It will be a 5K race that will begin and end at the pantry. Participants can walk, run or wobble in their most festive fall gear! We also welcome everyone to tour the pantry and join us for the ribbon cutting ceremony highlighting the new building addition, pre-race.

Race medals and t-shirts are guaranteed to all who register before Nov. 6th, 2021.

Participants can register up to the day of the race (Nov. 20th).

Post your race pictures and/or times on our Facebook page to be entered to win special prizes!

REGISTRATION IS AS EASY AS PIE!

Pay and register Online at www.feedoakwood.myevent.com.

If you'd like to make an additional donation of \$100 or more for our building campaign you will be featured on our donor wall and be entered to win 7 days of accommodations on Topsail Island, NC

Members of Vermilion Advantage, NFP in Good Standing by Level of Membership

ADVANTAGE DIAMOND DIRECTOR:

(Level \$10,000+)

Aqua Illinois, Inc.
City of Danville
Danville Sanitary District
Fiberteq, LLC
First Financial Bank
First Midwest Bank
Iroquois Federal
Old National Bank
OSF HealthCare Sacred Heart Medical Center
Vermilion County Government

ADVANTAGE GOLD CROWN DIRECTOR:

(Level \$6,000 - \$9,999)

Arconic
Bunge Milling, Inc.
Carle / Carle Medical Supply
Cannon Cochran Management Services, Inc.
Christie Clinic
Danville Area Community College
Danville Metal Stamping
Danville School Dist. #118
Hyster-Yale Group
McLane Midwest
Mervis Industries
REG Danville, LLC
Republic (formerly Allied Waste)
thyssenKrupp Presta
Vermilion Development, Inc.
Viscofan USA, Inc.
Voyant Beauty
Watchfire Signs

ADVANTAGE MILLENNIUM MEMBER:

(Level \$2,500 - \$5,999)

AmerenIP
Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center
Catlin Bank
Central States Distribution Service
City of Hoopeston
CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP
Curry Construction
Double S Liquid Feed Service, Inc.
Genpact
Greenwood, Inc.
McDonald's c/o DND Witzel Enterprises, Inc.
Quaker Oats
Village of Oakwood
Walgreens - Danville Accounting Center

ADVANTAGE EXECUTIVE MEMBER:

(Level \$1,000 - \$2,499)

Acton & Snyder,LLP
Anderson Electric, Inc.
APPI Energy
AT&T Illinois
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois
Bose Corporation
Brainerd Chemical Midwest, LLC
Chittick Family Eye Care
County Markets / Niemann Foods
Depke Gases & Welding Supplies
EnvirOx, LLC
Express Employment Professionals
Faulstich Printing Company
First Farmers Bank & Trust
First Savings Bank of Danville
Flex-N-Gate Plastics
Heritage Development

Heritage Health Therapy and Senior Care
Hubner Industries, LLC
IL Chapter Nat'l Electrical Contractor's Assoc.
Julius W. Hegeler II Foundation
Meijer
Neuhoff Family Broadcasting
Prospect Bank
The Sygma Network
thyssenKrupp Crankshaft Company
Towne Machine Tool Co., Inc.
Vermilion County Bobcats
Village of Catlin

ADVANTAGE ASSOCIATE MEMBER:

(Level \$500 - \$999)

***Indicates Hoopeston Chamber Member discount due to partnership with Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce*

112 Wine & Coffee
A&R Mechanical Contractors
Allied Capital Title
Arnold's Office Supply
Arrow Ambulance
Autumn Fields Adult Community of Hoopeston
AWEBCO
BEE PLUS, Inc.
Beltone Hearing Aid Service
BIGG Success
Bill Smith Auto Parts
Bricks and Ivy Sports
Built 2 Last Construction
Busey Bank
C.H. Smith Insurance Agency
Carla's
Carmack Car Capitol
Charlotte's Coffee & Tea
CIBM Bank
City of Georgetown
Classic Homes Realty
Coldwell Banker Commercial Devonshire
Realty - Larry Kuchefski
Comcast Business
Commercial-News
Courtesy Ford Lincoln / Courtesy Chrysler
Dodge Jeep
Credit Union 1
CTS Computers
Danville Area Board of Realtors
Danville Bldg. & Construction Trades Council
Danville Gardens, Inc.
Danville Public Building Commission
Davis & Delanois, PC
Dawson Logistics
Days Hotel and Conference Center
Dean Crandall - Morgan Stanley
D.I. Fire & Safety
Dines Machine & Mfg.
Donohue & Associates, Inc.
Dougherty Group
Duncan Farms
DynaChem, Inc.
East Central Enterprises
Education Personnel Federal Credit Union
Edward Jones (Marcus Provost)
Ela's Eatery
Enel Green Power Salt Springs
EPIC Insurance Midwest
Farnsworth Group
First Institute Training & Mgmt., Inc.
FLP Wealth Advisors of Raymond James
Ford of Hoopeston**

Freeman General Contracting
Full-Fill Industries, LLC
Gailey Eye Clinic
Gardenview Manor
Gibson Teldata, Inc.
Greene Galvanized Stairs
Group 2029 Inc. (d/b/a Burger King)
Health Alliance Medical Plans
Heartland Properties, Inc.
Hickory Point Bank
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites/Hampton Inn & Suites
Hoopeston Coin Laundry
Home Instead Senior Care
Homefield Energy
HRW, Inc.
Husmann Rogers Law, LLC
IBEW Local 538
Illini Castings, LLC
Illume Counseling and Wellness Center
International Greenhouse Co.- Danville
JAC Property Management
Jimmy Johns
Jocko's Depot / Diveley Development Corp.
Kick Me Shirts
Kruger's ATA Martial Arts, Inc.
Kruger-Coan-Pape Funeral Home
Kurland Steel Co.
Lamar Outdoor Advertising
Landmark Credit Union
Leatherneck Hardware, Inc.
Lebanon Seaboard Corporation
Lipa Enterprises, Inc.
Loman Ray Insurance Group **Hoopeston
Longview Bank & Trust
Love's Travel Stop
Martin Hood, LLC
Mattress Firm
MH Equipment
MI-BOX Moving & Mobile Storage
Newton's Cleaning & Restoration, LLC
Pepsi-Cola C-U Bottling Co.
Portal Entertainment Group
Prince of Peace Community Early Learning Center
Randal Ashton, DDS
Ray O'Herron Company
Redimere Surface Solutions
RE/Max Ultimate
Revive Salon & Spa
River Bottom Farms Topsoil
Robinson Chiropractic, Ltd. - Danville, Hoopeston, & Westville locations
R.S. Quick Properties
Russell Leigh & Associates
Salt Fork CUSD #512
Second Church of Christ
Sentry Roofing, Inc.
Shore Wealth Management
Silgan Containers
Slumberland Furniture
Spherion
Steel Grip, Inc.
T.H. Snyder Co.- Architectural Woodwork Div.
Terminix Services, Inc.
The Andersons Rail Group
Toni Stone State Farm Agency
Townway Place, LLC
Toyota of Danville
Trillium Staffing
Turtle Run Golf & Banquet Center

Two Roads Wellness Clinic
 United Rentals
 Up & Down Golf Simulator
 Venture Mechanical Contractors, Inc.
 Vermilion Chevrolet
 Vermilion County Conservation District
 Vermilion County Title, Inc.
 Vermilion Regional Airport Authority
 Vermilion River Beer Company
 Vermilion Valley Produce Co., Inc.
 Vermilion Valley Railroad
 Veterans Affairs Illiana Health Care System
 Village of Fithian
 Village of Tilton
 W & T Enterprises L.P.
 WCIA Nexstar Broadcasting
 Westville CUSD #2
 Whipper Snappers Southern Grill
 WITY Illiana Communications, LLC
 Woodard's Computing Services

ADVANTAGE HONOR MEMBER
(Level \$300 - \$499)

* Existing Members Grandfathered prior to Base level change to \$500 in 2014

** Indicates Hoopston Chamber Member discount due to partnership with Hoopston Chamber of Commerce

Aquality Solutions, LLC
 Automation International, Inc.
 AutoZone Distribution Center
 B&K Investments, Inc. (Wendy's)
 Berry's Garden Center & Florist
 Bismarck-Henning CUSD #1
 Bodine Electric of Danville
 Bowman Estates
 Brunswick Apartments
 CDS Office Technologies
 Cooper East Lake Animal Hospital
 Country Financial
 Crose Insurance
 Crowder CPA's, Ltd
 Culver's - T/Kat, Inc.
 Cunningham, Inc.
 Danville Housing Authority
 Danville NECA-IBEW Electrical JATC
 Danville Towne Centre, LLC
 David S. Palmer Arena
 DP Supply, Inc. (formerly Danville Paper & Supply)
 East Lynn Fertilizer
 ERH Enterprises, Inc.
 Fairchild Animal Hospital
 Fancy That Bridal & Special Occasion
 Fehr Graham
 First Presbyterian Church
 Flex-N-Gate / Master Guard II
 Georgetown Wood & Pallet Co., Inc.
 Gibson Health of Hoopston
 Glesco Electric, Inc.
 Hoopston Area CUSD #11
 Illinois Small Business Development Center
 Jameson Steel Fabrication
 Jenna Wirth State Farm
 KBA Limited
 Lakeview College of Nursing
 Liberty Village
 Mason, MD John
 McDowell Builders, Inc.
 McLaughlin Asset Management
 MidWest America Federal Credit Union
 Myers Carpet Weavers
 Napa Auto & Truck Parts Superstore
 NCT, Inc.
 Newell Township Supervisor
 NewWave Communications
 North Vermilion Family Dental
 Oakwood CUSD No. 76

Olympic Hardware**
 Owen Financial Services
 Prairie Center Health Systems, Inc.
 Schomburg & Schomburg Construction, Inc.
 Servpro of Vermilion County
 Shortz Family Farms, Inc.
 Sleep Inn & Suites
 Sleepy Creek Vineyards
 Sunset Funeral Home, Memorial Park & Cremation Center
 Teasdale Foods
 Terry R. Miles, Attorney at Law
 The Myers Group at Morgan Stanley
 Triadan International, Inc.
 Vermilion County Health Department
 Vermilion Healthcare Foundation, Inc.
 Vermilion House
 Vibrant Credit Union
 Village of Belgium
 Village of Bismarck
 Village of Henning
 Village of Potomac
 WhiteSmith Marketing Group, Inc.

ADVANTAGE INDIVIDUAL PROFESSIONAL, NON/NOT FOR PROFIT (with annual budget under \$250,000), AND CLUBS:
(Level \$150 - \$299)

AMBUCS
 American Legion Post #210
 Amy S. Marchant - Mediator
 Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Bodies of the Valley of Danville
 Arts In The Park, Inc.
 Aunt Martha's Health & Wellness
 Baby Blessings Ultrasound Studio
 Bennett, Scott (Senator)
 Better Business Bureau - Central Illinois
 Boys & Girls Club of Danville
 Butler, Rosemary (Tutor/Mentor)
 Cannon Place Mercy Housing
 CASA of Vermilion County
 Center Street Productions
 Central Christian Church
 Child Care Resource Service
 Cleaning by Jai
 Community Development Institute/Head Start
 Community Foundation of East Central IL
 CRIS Healthy-Aging Center
 CRIS Rural Mass Transit
 Crosspoint Human Services
 DACC Foundation
 Danville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
 Danville Area Labor Management Council
 Danville Boat Club
 Danville Christian Academy
 Danville Country Club
 Danville Downtown Event Center
 Danville Family YMCA
 Danville Farmer's Market
 Danville Library Foundation
 Danville Public Library
 Danville Public School Foundation
 Danville Sunrise Rotary
 Danville Symphony Orchestra
 Danville Tennis Center
 Deer Creek Manor
 DLO Musical Theatre (formerly Danville Light Opera)
 Douglas Discovery Garden
 Eastern Illinois Foodbank
 Edward J. Ryan, CPA
 Erickson, Gary C.
 First Church of the Nazarene
 First Presbyterian Church of Hoopston
 FSO: LLC Barbershop & CMS Detailing
 GAO Grotto / Denmark Park Corporation

Gateway Family Services of Illinois
 Grace Lutheran Church
 Hoopston Multi Agency Service Center
 Immanuel Lutheran Church
 Immanuel Manor, Inc. - Senior Residences
 Informed Decisions
 Keep Vermilion Co. Beautiful, Inc.
 Land of Lincoln Goodwill Industries, Inc.
 Laura Lee Fellowship House Association
 Law Office of Bethany D. Hager
 Midwest Print and Sign Specialists, LLC
 Moryok Leadership Coaching
 New Directions Treatment Center
 Oakwood Area Food Pantry, Inc.
 Oakwood Public Library District
 Prairielands Council - Boy Scouts of America
 Premier Network Solutions
 Project Success of Vermilion Co., Inc.
 Red Mask Players, Inc.
 Roland Lim Photography
 Schlarman Academy
 Shannon Schroeder, Young Living Marketing Professionals, Best of Oil Team
 Spring Hill Cemetery
 St. James United Methodist Church
 STEP Recovery Center
 Stephens-Felix, Stacy - Fountain Insurance
 Survivor Resource Center
 Swires, Bob
 Danville Art League
 The Fischer Theatre
 The Salvation Army
 Trinity Lutheran School
 United Way of Danville Area
 University of IL Extension., Vermilion Co. Unit
 Venue 22
 Vermilion Co. Conservation Dist. Foundation
 Vermilion Co. Elementary Schools Assoc.
 Vermilion Co. Fair and Expo
 Vermilion Co. Farm Bureau
 Vermilion Co. Museum Society
 Vermilion Co. War Museum
 Vermilion Voles Vintage Baseball Club
 Westville American Legion Post 51
 WorkSource Enterprises
 Zindars Property Management, LLC

ADVANTAGE HOME-BASED ADULTS, FULL-TIME STUDENTS, OR RETIREES:
(Level \$100)

Anderson, Jim
 Bennett, State Rep. Tom
 Beynon, Mark
 Block, Gerald R.
 Drude, Charles (Bott's Locksmith)
 Fields, David L.
 Franklin, Susan (Franklin's Farm Blooms & Heirlooms)
 Hays, Chad (Retired State Representative)
 Lee, Todd
 Mulvaney, Jeanne
 Nicholls, Bill
 Resh, Gary (Resh Frame Shop)
 Spezia, John (Reach 1 Coach 1)
 Stoner, Christopher (Pro Wash)
 Teague, Tricia (The Trep School)
 Wood, Jim

PARTNER IN PROGRESS



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