



Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce Hosts 113th Annual Meeting

Terre Haute, Ind. - The Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce hosted its 113th Annual Meeting on Thursday evening at the Terre Haute Convention Center. The theme of the event was "Dare Greatly," highlighting the critical importance for our business community to continue to Dare Greatly for Vigo County.

Each year, the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce recognizes organizations and individuals who are making a difference in the community through a variety of awards.

Building Business - Sponsored by CenterPoint Energy, this award recognizes a business that drives economic growth in the region. This year's award was presented to Trans-Care Ambulance Service.

In 1992, Russell Ferrell founded Trans-Care Ambulance Service in Terre Haute with a single wheelchair van serving the Wabash Valley. Today, the family-owned company has grown into a healthcare services organization serving Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio, employing more than 600 professionals, operating more than 100 ambulances and transporting nearly 100,000 patients each year.

Trans-Care's growth has been driven by innovation, strategic expansion and a commitment to its workforce. From early investments in technology and the development of its One Call transportation model to its recent expansion into Ohio, the company has continued to find solutions to complex challenges while strengthening the communities it serves. More than three decades later, Trans-Care remains Terre Haute-rooted and focused on the people who have helped build its success.

Building Community - Sponsored by Indiana State University, this award honors an organization or individual(s) for making significant progress toward enhancing the quality of life in the West Central region. This year's award was presented to the Terre Haute Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The Terre Haute Convention & Visitors Bureau has long worked to bring visitors to our community, but its impact goes far beyond tourism. In 2025, tourism brought more than 1.7 million visitors to Vigo County and generated more than \$300 million in economic impact. At the same time, the CVB has helped residents see their community differently by building pride in the place we call

home and showing residents, businesses and visitors why Terre Haute is worth talking about.

One of the clearest examples is the Terredise initiative, which evolved from a pilot campaign into a community identity embraced through tourism materials, social media, events and businesses throughout the city. That same work is evident in the way Terre Haute continues to build on its identity as “Cross Country Town USA.” The LaVern Gibson Championship Cross Country Course has established Terre Haute as a national destination for the sport, and this November, the community will welcome the NCAA Division I Cross Country Championships for the 14th time. The CVB has also made regional collaboration a priority, connecting communities, attractions and experiences across West Central Indiana. By strengthening community pride, encouraging regional partnerships and creating a more positive story about our home, the Terre Haute Convention & Visitors Bureau is helping us not only invite people to Terre Haute, but believe in Terre Haute.

Leading Tomorrow - Sponsored by RJL Solutions, this award recognizes an amazing leader and volunteer in the community who dedicates their time and service to the West Central Indiana region. This year’s award was presented to Michele Madley, President and CEO of Gibault Children’s Services.

Michele has spent her career advocating for young people and creating opportunities for children and families to overcome significant challenges. Under her leadership, Gibault has provided life-changing opportunities to more than 11,300 children and families, supporting young people facing trauma, behavioral health challenges, disabilities and other barriers to success.

Michele’s impact extends well beyond Gibault and West Central Indiana. She serves as Vice President of the Indiana Association of Resources and Child Advocacy and Immediate Past President of the National Association for Children’s Behavioral Health, advocating at both the state and federal levels for stronger systems and services for children and families. Known for leading with integrity, compassion and humility, Michele gives her time and talents because she believes in doing what is right. Her commitment reflects a fundamental belief that when we invest in children, we invest in the future of our entire region.

12 Under 40 - Sponsored by Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and the West Central Indiana Partnership, the 12 Under 40 Awards are presented in partnership with the Tribune-Star. The award is presented to 12 young

professionals under 40 who go above and beyond to improve their community through their professional lives or volunteer work.

This year's honorees were: Ashley Bennett, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College; Colleen Engle, Parke County Community Foundation; Sydney Howell, Thompson Thrift; Morgan Leek, Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce; Lucy Lunsford CPA, Indiana State University; Kaylee Maffioli, Clay County YMCA; Jordan Marvel, City of Terre Haute; Dr. Jayme Norris, Dentistry Just for Kids + TK Orthodontics; Seth Porter, Hannig Construction; CMSGT Esther Roman, 181st Intelligence Wing; Mayor Brandon Sakbun, City of Terre Haute; Lucas Utterback, Vigo County School Corporation.

About the Chamber

Established in 1913, the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce has been and always will be, committed to creating a community that is a great place to live, work and do business. Its mission is Building Business, Building Community.

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