



ICEA will accept nominations for the Annual Excellence Awards through May 10th.

This is a great opportunity for your chamber to garner statewide recognition for the hard work that staff accomplished on specific new projects throughout the past year.

Chambers are divided into the following categories for judging:

0—400 members

401—700 members

701+ members

Upon reviewing, all applicants scoring above 90% will receive an Excellence Award.

Chambers may enter multiple entries.

Deadline —May 10th.

E-mail entry link with this completed form to info@iceaonline.com.

Mail a non-refundable check payable to ICEA for \$25 per entry to:
ICEA, P.O. Box 377, Hanover IN 47243.

Questions? Please call the ICEA office at 812-871-3000.

Excellence in Innovation Awards

About the award: The Annual Excellence Awards will recognize innovative new projects from your chamber this past year. Chambers may submit multiple nominations for various projects, however each nomination must showcase something new offered by your chamber during this past year. This award recognizes excellence in innovative new ideas. Complete a separate form for each entry.

E-mail your entry with this completed form to info@iceaonline.com prior to May 10th. Each entry submitted for review will be charged a \$25 non-refundable fee. Please mail this review payment payable to ICEA to: P.O. Box 377 Hanover IN 47243. An invoice will also be sent for you to pay with debit/credit card.

Chamber of Commerce _____

What are you submitting for? _____

Contact: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Complete a duplicate entry for more than one entry. Please circle below the size of your chamber:

- 0—400 members
- 401— 700 members
- 701 + members **X**

Forward e-mail with your submission attached to info@iceaonline.com no later than May 10th.



ICEA 2024 Excellence Award Nomination: Teacher Fieldtrips



Aspire Johnson County's 2020-2025 economic development strategic plan, developed from the direct input of business and community leaders, calls for stronger workforce development efforts to develop, attract, and grow a skilled talent pool.

Aspire took a huge step into workforce development in 2022 when we created a full-time workforce development staff position, focused on developing the school to work pipeline.

Early Lesson: We learned K12 teachers play a significant role in influencing students' career paths. Therefore, we included high school teachers in our outreach and engagement efforts.

Problem: Most residents drive past businesses for years without understanding what it does. Teachers are no exception. But teachers' lack of awareness is compounded by the repercussions for our students – teachers are therefore unable to discuss local career opportunities.

Solution - New Program: Part of our work with teachers included new "Teacher Fieldtrips" where we host area K12 teachers and guidance counselors on tours of Johnson County employers during the summer. Each



trip focuses on a different industry, and we visit three employers in that industry.

Aspire's Teacher Fieldtrips revealed the innerworkings and career paths within familiar, but often overlooked and misunderstood businesses. We ensured the employers highlighted a variety of career paths, requiring and not requiring post-secondary education. We also provided a letter for participating teachers to gain continuing education credits for their licensing.

Outcomes: We hosted 30 local teachers and counselors. Some made connections for future classroom speakers and internships. Surprisingly, we also created an environment where teachers from the same building who did not know one another became acquainted and built new inter-department partnerships.

Teachers that have worked with Aspire have increased their connections to the business community, increased student engagement, and would be challenged if Aspire's assistance was not available. A survey of teachers indicated:

- They are 80% more aware of local career opportunities for their students than before working with Aspire.
- They average a 50% increase in student engagement because Aspire has provided more business and career exposure.
- 100% feel better connected to the business community as a result of engaging with Aspire.

Aspire Johnson County continues to host this program and will next explore the potential to host Teacher Fieldtrips for individual high schools on each school's professional development workday or fall break.

Attached: Fieldtrip Flyer to Teachers

Aspire
economic development
+ chamber alliance



VIP TEACHER FIELD TRIPS

Aspire Johnson County is hosting VIP teacher field trips this summer! Join us for free, in-person tours to learn about the variety of companies and careers available to your students in Johnson County.

Why you should attend:

- Hear about the variety of career paths in the agricultural industry
- Go on a behind-the-scenes tour
- Learn about the education and skills needed
- Get free stuff for participating!

**Aspire will provide you a letter for continuing education credits by request*



**REGISTER NOW—
SEATS ARE LIMITED!**

**JOIN US FOR AN UPCOMING
INDUSTRY TOUR!**

JUNE 14TH | AGRICULTURAL

JULY 12TH | TRADE/UTILITIES

JULY 19TH | DISTRIBUTION/LOGISTICS



Thank you to our sponsor

Participating Schools

