



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Countywide Education Summit October 9 and 10

The Wayne County Foundation and the Wayne County Learning Corporation will convene a summit-style meeting in Richmond on October 9 and 10 to discuss improvements to education and identify ways in which community members can be engaged. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

“High-quality educational opportunities and higher levels of educational attainment are critical if we are to be a vibrant, economically-viable community,” said Steve Borchers, Executive Director of the Wayne County Foundation. “Moreover, we need to set measurable goals for our progress and get everyone working toward them in their own ways. That’s what the Summit is all about.”

The event will kickoff at 7:00 pm on October 9, with a keynote presentation by Dr. Suzanne Morse, President of the Pew Partnership for Civic Change and author of the book *Smart Communities*. Dr. Morse’s research on what communities do make themselves successful, as well as her work to address the issue of rising high school dropout rates, will provide a framework for the summit meetings the next day. Her remarks will also be of interest to those who may not be able to participate in those events, but who are nevertheless concerned with the link between education and community development. There is no charge to attend the “kickoff keynote” presentation, which will be held in Goddard Auditorium, in Carpenter Hall, on the Earlham College Campus.

The Summit will continue on Wednesday, October 10, on the IU East and Ivy Tech campuses. Aims McGuinness, author of the 2002 NCHEMS Report, will help lead the discussions, which will relate to the Learning Corporation’s “pipeline model” and center on the following questions:

- Where are we now?
- Where do we need to be?
- How can we get there?
- How do we measure our progress?
- What’s the most important thing to do first?

The pipeline model identifies critical points along a continuum of educational development where students are at the greatest risk of becoming disengaged – and diminishing our community’s capacity for growth.

Our ability to address these “leak points” effectively, and in relation to the recommendations from the NCHEMS report, is an important measure of our ability to progress.

“The Summit is designed to keep the focus on what we – as a community – can and should do to advance education ... and what we can do to translate these concepts into specific individual, organizational, and business entity involvement,” said Steve Slonaker, Chair of the Learning Corporation Board.

Organizers of the Summit are encouraging teams of people from businesses and organizations to participate. Teams and individuals can register for the Summit and see additional information about the event at, www.waynecountyfoundation.org, or by calling the Wayne County Foundation at 962-1638. There is no cost to attend the kickoff keynote event on October 9; \$5 is requested of participants at the event on October 10 to help offset the cost of lunch and refreshments.