

News Release

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Director Chosen for New DeKalb County Economic Development Office *Galen Eberhart Selected by Partnership and Alliance*

AUBURN, Ind. (May 18, 2006)—The DeKalb County Economic Development Partnership (DCEDP) today confirmed the naming of Mr. Galen Eberhart as director of the new countywide economic development office. Eberhart will officially begin his duties as director June 5. Today’s announcement follows the April 20 signing of a contract between the DCEDP and the Fort Wayne-Allen County Economic Development Alliance (the Alliance). Under the terms of that contract, the Alliance has agreed to establish and staff the DCEDP office.

“We are pleased that a number of highly-skilled individuals applied for the position,” stated DeWayne Nodine, board president of the DeKalb County Economic Development Partnership. “Galen Eberhart brings the right mix of experience and energy to this important position, and we look forward to working with him for the foreseeable future.”

Eberhart’s professional background includes several years of service with three rural electric membership corporations (REMCs) – most recently Southeastern Indiana REMC in Versailles. He was with Columbia City-based Northeastern REMC from 1974 to 1989 and Wabash County REMC from 1989 to 1992. Eberhart holds an undergraduate degree from Huntington University and a graduate degree from the University of Saint Francis. He has also furthered his professional development through a variety of courses and conferences, including economic development training at Ball State University.

“The Alliance is happy to add Galen to our staff and we’re excited to be working with DeKalb County to launch this important operation,” added Rob Young, president of the Alliance. “We appreciate the opportunity to work with the DCEDP and, under Galen’s leadership, we will work together to create an effective countywide economic development program in DeKalb County.”

“I’m honored to be asked to serve as director of this new office and I look forward to learning more about all of the communities involved in the DeKalb County Economic Development Partnership,” said Eberhart. “It’s exciting to be a part of this new effort and we look forward to marketing DeKalb County’s considerable assets to existing and prospective base employers.”

The exact location of the DCEDP offices has yet to be determined. Several options are still being considered. More information on a permanent home, as well as other aspects of the operation, should be available in early June. The DCEDP will have a presence at the 24th Annual Northeast Indiana Business & Industrial Conference at the Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park June 6-7.

For more information on the DeKalb County Economic Development Partnership, click on www.dekalbcountyedp.org. For more information on the Fort Wayne-Allen County Economic Development Alliance, click on www.theallianceonline.com.