



INFLUENTIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPER

MARK WICKERSHAM HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

Executive Director
Huntington County Economic
Development Corporation
Huntington, Indiana, USA

Mark Wickersham has a 31-year career in politics, business and economic development. He is completing his 10th year serving as the executive director of the Huntington County Economic Development Corporation. The agency is celebrating its 20th year of service during 2017.

His tenure with the agency has resulted in the successful facilitation of 103 industrial projects accounting for over \$304 million in capital investments and the creation of over 2,000 new jobs in Huntington County, Indiana. The projects impacted the industrial occupancy rate, the unemployment rate and municipal revenue streams.

The industrial occupancy rate has risen from 53.7% in 2008 to today's 97% while the County's unemployment rate dropped from 14.3% to 4.4% as of the August 2017 reporting period.



MAJOR FDI PROJECTS DURING HIS TENURE INCLUDE:

Continental Structural Plastics, a division of Tokyo's Teijin Corporation. The company, which produces exterior body panels for such iconic automobiles as the Chevy Corvette, invested \$33.5 million to expand its Huntington plant, committing to create 157 net new jobs (which itself originally opened in Huntington during Wickersham's tenure and employs over 300 workers prior to the expansion announcement).

Helena Chemical Company, a division of Tokyo's Marubeni Corporation. The company purchased 93 acres at Huntington's Park 24 Industrial Park, investing over \$24 million, to develop a rail-served, blending and distribution center to distribute agricultural fertilizer throughout the midwest.

Onward Manufacturing Company of Waterloo, Ontario Canada. The company redeveloped a vacant 463,000 square foot facility and now employs over 300 workers building gas barbecue units under the brand labels Broil King and Huntington.

Other major projects during his tenure include:

- Site Certification and development of 53 acres at the Markle Industrial Park, I-69 Exit 286, involving clients, Novae Corporation and Dayton Freight Corporation
- Earned PRIME Certification from the State of Indiana's Office of Community and Rural Affairs for the 80 acre Brickley 1 Site, I-69 Exit 278

Mark served as the northeast regional director for the Indiana Economic Development Corporation during the administration of former Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels. He was employed as a commercial loan officer for a Community-based bank; and was employed as a Congressional Staff Member for nearly 15 years with two different members of Congress. His other relevant experience include employment as a university relations officer at Huntington University; Member of the Board of Aviation Commissioners of Huntington Municipal Airport and he has service as a board member with several charitable organizations throughout his professional career.

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