

City promises money to center

\$200,000 pledged for Regional Learning Center

BY LUCAS BECHTOL
lbechtol@h-porline.com

Huntington City is showing support of the Regional Learning Center by donating \$200,000 to the effort of bringing a center to Huntington.

"(The center) is a movement afoot by a variety of people in leadership, working in conjunction with the Vision 2020 Initiative primarily to help bring about skill training for Huntington County workers," Huntington City Mayor Brooks Fetters said.

The Huntington County Community School Corporation has led the way with the Ivy Tech workforce and Work One, to establish a regional learning center in Huntington, he said.

"What we're trying to do is create a collaborative approach where we're able to invest in our most valuable economic resource and that's the human resources that we have here in Huntington," Fetters said.

There is a continued need for certification and training beyond high school education, he added. The goal of Vision 2020 is to have 60 percent of northeast Indiana's workforce have some sort of education beyond high school, whether from a certification or other form of training or a college degree by 2025.

"This piece really fits in great into the economic development wheelhouse that I see here," Fetters said.

To this end, Fetters added a \$200,000 line item to the city's CEDIT plan which was approved by the Huntington City Common Council earlier this year. This means the city has not written a check, yet.

"Basically, the mayor stands behind it, the council stands behind it in the sense that they approved the plan," he said. "As the plan unfolds, we'll be able to release the dollars as it's needed to help that movement go forward."

The CEDIT Plan approved by council is a three-year plan.

Handled - Press 2/28/13 P1

+