

Project: Economic Development Strategy for Southwest Central Indiana

Client: Steering Committee of the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership

Term: Spring 2012

Faculty Mentor: Professor David Audretsch

Summary:

The SPEA Capstone group assisted a Steering Committee of regional leaders and stakeholders in Southwest Central Indiana in developing a strategy for a \$650,000 planning grant the region received. The team identified opportunities, assets and resources to enhance economic development while ensuring a sustainable standard of living for Southwest Central Indiana residents. The group identified peer regional locations across the country to provide a benchmark for the region, determined economic strengths and weaknesses, provided best practices for overcoming barriers to technological progress, and evaluated the quality of life in the region. Final analysis considered the viability of quality of life and how it could best be used to foster economic development.