

# MAYORS INSTITUTE

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## AGENDA

Thursday, February 11 and Friday, February 12

### Thursday, February 11

9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m. **Welcome & Introductions**

9:10 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. **Measuring Quality of Life, the Quality of Business Environment, and their Effect on Population and Employment Growth**

Among most local leaders it is commonly accepted that investments in quality of life projects are integral to the vibrancy in our communities. There remain several state and local policy questions. Such as investments in business attraction versus quality of life, or even how to measure quality of life in various communities. CBER of BSU is conducting research to address these questions. This study illustrates a market based measure of county level quality of life and quality of business environment in the United States. By comparing the unexplained variation in home value and wages, we assess the market based valuation of amenities in each U.S. county. We then use these measures to assess population and employment growth

since 2017 and extrapolate those findings to individual public, private and natural amenities in the U.S. Michael Hicks, Director of CBER will explain these preliminary findings and what they mean for your communities.

**Speaker:**

**Dr. Michael J. Hicks, Ph.D.,** George & Frances Ball Distinguished Professor; Director, Center for Business and Economic Research, Miller College of Business, Ball State University

10:10 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. **Break**

10:20 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. **Hiring, Discipline, & Dismissal of Public Safety Employees**

In this interactive workshop, we will cover the basics of hiring, disciplining, and terminating public employees in Indiana. Topics covered will include the "do's and don'ts" of the hiring process, documenting disciplinary issues, and handling termination meetings. We will consider Indiana state law provisions (including those specific to public safety employees), federal employment law, and constitutional issues relevant to public employees. Questions will be encouraged!

**Speaker:**

**Emmanuel Boulukos, Attorney, Ice Miller, LLP**

11:20 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. **Break**

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Public Finance**

An overview of the many ways in which cities and towns may finance public projects and the targeted financial solutions that are available to assist them in the process.

**Speakers:**

**Tim Berry**, Managing Director, Crowe LLP

**Brian Carman**, Director of Marketing & Business Development, Indiana Bond Bank

**Mark Wuellner**, Executive Director, Indiana Bond Bank

**Friday, February 12**

9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m. **Welcome & Introductions**

9:10 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. **Roundtable Discussion: Access to Childcare and Early Childhood Learning Options**

Access to quality childcare and school readiness options are not uniform or equitable, according to a study by the Center for American Progress. As cities struggle to make their communities attractive to workers and their families, this growing lack of available, licensed childcare options hampers their recruitment and retention efforts. This roundtable discussion will allow Mayors to discuss the childcare and early childhood learning challenges or successes, as well as reviewing what the National League of Cities has identified as nine action steps for improving the quality and quantity of childcare and early childhood learning options in your city.

**Presenters:**

**Ryan Daniel**, Mayor, Columbia City

**Cathy Gross**, Mayor, Monticello

**Kathryn Shibuya**, Senior Program Specialist, NLC Early Childhood Success Institute for Youth, Education, and Families

**Anna White**, Program Manager, NLC Early Childhood Success Institute for Youth, Education, and Families

**Participant:**

**Tonja Rucker**, Director, NLC Early Childhood Success Institute for Youth, Education, and Families

10:10 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. **Break**

10:20 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. **Code Enforcement: Animals Post-COVID**

COVID has strained communities and municipal budgets. Learn how you can help keep dogs and cats in their homes and reduce animal services costs through progressive codes and field services. Best Friends Animal Society's professionals are here to help YOUR community with free animal shelter assessments, trainings, and grants. Learn more about how to access these life and cost saving services.

**Speakers:**

**Stacy Rogers**, Midwest Regional Director, Best Friends Animal Society

**Liz Stamper**, Midwest Regional Strategist, Best Friends Animal Society

**Ledy VanKavage**, Senior Legislative Attorney, Best Friends Animal Society

11:20 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. **Break**

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Navigating 2022 and Beyond: How the Pandemic has Changed Municipal Financial Planning**

It's often said to "never neglect an opportunity for improvement." While many Indiana cities practice proactive financial planning, the Covid-19 Pandemic has put forth financial hurdles not faced before and the consequences will likely be felt for years by local municipalities. In this workshop we will walk through a case study where a City took their historical financial roadmap and improved it; taking into account expected and potential financial impacts from the Pandemic. The workshop will address financial planning for projects, staff succession and debt utilization during a pandemic.

**Speakers:**

**Michael Ley**, Mayor, Auburn

**Eric Walsh**, Partner, Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC

12:30 p.m.

**Adjourn**