MAYORS INSTITUTE

aim Accelerate Indiana Municipalities | **IU** PAUL H. O'NEILL CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP IN PUBLIC SERVICE

April 28–29, 2026

Bottleworks Hotel
Indianapolis, Indiana

AGENDA

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.   **Registration & Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.   **Welcome & Introductions**

9:20 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.   **Update:** STARTedUP

CEO and co-founder of STARTedUP, Don Wetrick, will be on hand to offer an exciting update about the enthusiastic reception his December Mayors Institute appearance received and the work already happening in communities around the state as a result.

Speaker:
Don Wettrick, CEO and Co-Founder, The STARTedUP Foundation

9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	**Workshop:** 2026 Legislative Session Outcomes and the Urgency to begin Planning for 2027

The Aim legislative team will review some of the session's most impactful legislation and foreshadow what to expect in 2027 when lawmakers return to Indianapolis for another budget-writing session. LIT reforms, residential housing, municipal elections, government modernization, public notices, TIF, and rental restrictions were just some of the key issues debated in this shortest of short sessions.

Speakers:
Amy Krieg, Government Affairs Director, Aim
Campbell Ricci, Policy & Financial Resources Director, Aim

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	**Break**
10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	**Mayors' Idea Exchange:** AI at the City Level: Enhancing Infrastructure, Services and Community Engagement

Mayor Dan Rickord and the City of Decatur are taking a practical, results-driven approach to artificial intelligence in local government, focusing on real-world applications rather than buzzwords. The city is leveraging AI-powered roadway analysis through Vialytics to proactively identify issues and prioritize street maintenance based on data. It is also integrating resident reporting through SeeClickFix to ensure community concerns directly inform operational decisions. To strengthen organizational continuity, Decatur uses Ordinal to centralize knowledge and ensure all team members have access to consistent, reliable information. Attendees will gain a behind-the-scenes glimpse into Ordinal's functionality. Together, these efforts demonstrate how AI can enhance service delivery, improve infrastructure management, and preserve institutional knowledge.

Speakers:
Dan Rickord, Mayor, Decatur
Jeffrey Hoffman, Director of Business Development, Ordinal

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.   **Workshop:** Leading Safely – Personal Security & Risk Awareness for Indiana Mayors

This one-hour workshop will equip mayors with practical tools to protect themselves, their families, and their staff while remaining accessible community leaders. Participants will explore the unique safety challenges facing local officials, from public meetings and community events to online exposure and travel. The session highlights how to spot warning signs and how to coordinate concerns effectively with local law enforcement. Attendees will learn simple, realistic strategies to reduce risk during public appearances and daily routines. Presenters will also touch on digital privacy and social media safety in today's high-visibility environment. Mayors will leave with a clear, actionable framework for strengthening personal safety without sacrificing transparency or public trust.

Speaker:
Lieutenant Todd Wellmann, Special Operations – Executive Protection, Indiana University Police Department

12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.   **Lunch**

1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.   **Workshop:** Year Two of The Goldsmith Prize for Innovation in Local Government: Using Challenges as Inspiration for a Collaborative, Innovative Approach

Leaders from Sagamore Institute and The Goldsmith Prize for Innovation in Local Government will reflect on the program's inaugural year, sharing key insights and lessons learned. This session will also preview enhancements planned for year two, including expanded partnerships and new opportunities for municipal engagement. Panelists will examine the evolving

policy landscape and the real-world impacts of recent legislative changes on local funding, municipal authority, and service delivery. Through candid discussion and examples, speakers will highlight how cities can respond with innovation, collaboration, and strategic leadership. Attendees will leave with renewed confidence in their community's ability to adapt, compete, and thrive despite fiscal and statutory constraints.

Moderator:
Teresa Lubbers, President, Sagamore Institute

Panel:
Goldsmith Team

2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	**Break**
2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	**Workshop:** Strengthening Ties to Local Foundations and Philanthropic Organizations Offers Unique Opportunities Around Indiana

Strong communities are built through collaboration, and this 45-minute workshop explores why Indiana mayors benefit from working closely with local community foundations and philanthropic partners. Participants will hear of the importance placed on building relationships, communicating shared priorities, and understanding the limitations of one-time or shorter-term funding can accelerate quality-of-life initiatives in areas such as housing, public spaces, workforce development, and public safety. The session will highlight practical examples of public-private partnerships that have leveraged charitable dollars to unlock matching funds, strengthen grant competitiveness, and stretch limited local budgets for non-recurring expenses. This foundation-setting session will give mayors actionable strategies to position their communities for sustainable growth through coordinated civic and philanthropic leadership.

Speaker:
Maddison Miller, Vice President of External Relations, Indiana Philanthropy Alliance

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.   **Break**

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.   **Workshop:** Practical Steps for Increasing Indiana's Affordable Housing Stock

Aim will invite various constituency groups interested in creating a welcoming environment for all types of housing options in Indiana to discuss what can be done to increase Indiana's affordable housing stock, making homeownership more accessible to potential buyers. This moderated roundtable discussion will review available data, walk through concepts considered in HEA 1001, and explore opportunities for collaboration between developers, builders, city leaders, planning and zoning professionals, and other interested parties.

Moderator:
Jennifer Simmons, Chief Operating Officer, Aim

Panel:
Amy Krieg, Government Affairs Director, Aim
Josh Marsh, Mayor, Greensburg
Representative Doug Miller, Indiana House of Representatives
Rick Wajda, Chief Executive Officer, Indiana Builders Association
Scott Willis, Mayor, Westfield

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.   **Dinner & Networking**
Sundry & Vice
Bottleworks Hotel – 1st Floor

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **Breakfast**

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Roundtable Discussion:** Charlestown Civic Engagement

Charlestown Mayor Treva Hodges recently created the City of Charlestown's Development Charlestown Civic Engagement Workshops to offer residents an opportunity to deepen their understanding of city government and engage in civic discussion through a six-week educational series that covers topics such as municipal structure, finance, operations, laws, and planning. Participants draw upon the city's comprehensive plan to identify a project or initiative they want to lead and develop a plan to finance and implement their goal. Hear directly from Mayor Treva Hodges about what inspired her to launch this initiative and how residents have embraced the opportunity to engage more deeply in civic life. The program reflects Charlestown's commitment to transparency, education, and empowering citizens to help guide the city's growth and future.

Speaker:
Treva Hodges, Mayor, Charlestown

10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **Workshop:** Transportation Developments: Funding, Coordination, Administrative Requirements and More

Improving aging infrastructure is something all residents and businesses want. However, the inconvenience that can be created is not on their "wish list." This workshop will tackle how cities and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) can coordinate on both city and state projects to head off constituent frustrations. Panelists will also address funding opportunities, such as CCMG, the Wheel Tax, and current advocacy efforts to create a direct funding pipeline from the federal government to local units.

Speakers:

Kathy Eaton McKalip LPA/MPO Grant Administrator, Indiana Department of Transportation

Becca McCuaig, Chief Legal Officer, Aim

10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Workshop:** Weighing the Pros and Cons and Holding Productive Community Discussions about Data Centers

Three Indiana Mayors will discuss their recent experiences trying to bring high-tech data centers to their communities while ensuring a transparent public process that considers citizen input and concerns. As more data-center needs arise due to the explosion of uses for AI technology, the state of Indiana and local units of government are working together to make Indiana a more welcoming environment for these projects in communities that welcome their investment.

Moderator:

Dave Wood, Mayor, Mishawaka

Speakers:

Brandon Dickinson, Managing Associate, Dentons

Josh Huddlestun, Mayor, Hobart

Meredith Lizza, Senior Manager Community Affairs, Microsoft

Angie Nelson Deuitch, Mayor, Michigan City

11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. **Closing Remarks & Adjourn**