# **The Chamber Scene**

HUNTINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

#### 40 E. Franklin Street • Huntington, Indiana 46750 • (260) 356-5300 • www.huntington-chamber.com • September 2024

# Dr. Sherilyn Emberton to retire in May from HU

Dr. Sherilyn R. Emberton, EdD, president of Huntington University since 2013, officially announced that she will retire following the end of the 2024-2025 academic year. Emberton's presidency concludes a 23-year career in Christian higher education culminating with 12 years as HU's chief executive officer and the national director of education for the Church of the United Brethren in Christ.

"The Church of the United Brethren in Christ is grateful for Dr. Emberton's leadership at Huntington University," said Rev. Todd Fetters, bishop of the U.S. National Conference. "She has led our denominational college through continual growth and innovation, making it stronger than ever. I admire the way she has led with vision, collaboration, humility and a deep faith."

Prior to her time at HU, Emberton served in various leadership roles at East Texas Baptist University, Lincoln Memorial University, LeTourneau University and Texas State Technical College.

"Serving with the faculty, staff and Board of Trustees at Huntington University has been the highlight of my professional career," said Emberton. "I have loved being part of the United Brethren denomination, community of Huntington, Northeast Indiana and the wonderful independent colleges and universities of Indiana. By far, the greatest joy in that journey has been my interaction with students. I have been blessed by the opportunity to become a part of the Forester Family and will forever be grateful for all the people who have been part of this legacy Christ-centered institution."

Since 2013, Huntington University has grown 34%, with much of the increase coming from expanding locations and academic initiatives. The University's locations in Peoria, Arizona, and on the campus of Parkview Randallia in Fort Wayne, Indiana, house signature programs in digital media arts and occupational therapy. In 2015, the University launched the Haupert Institute for Agricultural Studies. Students studying agriculture are projected to be the largest



group of incoming HU students in fall 2024.

The University also developed new opportunities through innovative partnerships and collaborations, such as a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program with Ambassador Enterprises in 2018, an animal health and veterinary nursing concurrent dual-degree undergraduate program with Purdue University's College of Veterinary Medicine in 2023, and an Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) degree program with Indiana Tech and Parkview Health in 2023.

Emberton and the University's Senior Leadership Team, faculty and staff have successfully engaged with two strategic plans, Faith Forward 2022 and Forever Foresters. Additionally, they completed the Step Forward comprehensive capital campaign in 2023. During that campaign, the University invested over \$30 million in capital projects, including new spaces such as the Welcome Center, the Don Strauss Animal Science Education Center and the Ware Plant Science Production Facility; significant updates to Forest Glen Park and a 30,000-square-foot student center; and a complete renovation of the current athletic complex and wellness center. The campaign

also secured \$15 million in future gifts to the University.

The University's endowment fund has grown 35% in the last decade through gifts and earnings. In 2024, the University underwent a successful accreditation review by the Higher Learning Commission and was granted 10-year reaffirmation.

"The Huntington University Board of Trustees received Dr. Emberton's announcement with great sadness," said Monte Lightner, chair of the Board. "We are extremely thankful that HU has been blessed with Dr. Emberton's leadership on campus and off and her representation of the University before stakeholders, funders and collaboration partners both within the community and beyond. She leaves HU with a strong enrollment, a beautiful and growing campus, new programs, fresh ideas and new collaboration partners. Her overarching love of God, high energy, winsomeness, joy and unwavering commitment to keep the HU campus Christ-centered will be missed but will constantly be reflected in the strong, God-loving and vibrant student body, the dedicated and talented faculty and the efficient and hardworking staff.

(Story Continued on Page 2)

### **Emberton to retire from Huntington University**

(Story Continued From Page 1) "We thank Dr. Emberton for her leadership, her friendship and her servant's heart. We are all better for having had the opportunity to serve Christ with her."

During her tenure as president of HU, Emberton chaired the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership, was elected to the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, where she served on the executive committee, chaired the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Crossroads League conference and served as a board member for Elevate Northeast Indiana.

Currently, she serves on the executive committees for the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU), Agri-Novus Indiana and the Independent Colleges of Indiana. Dr. Emberton chairs the board of Lenawee Christian Ministries in Adrian, Michigan, and continues to serve on the board of the R e g i o n a l Chamber of Northeast Indiana. Emberton also sits as an advisory member for the Doden Legacy Trust and the Fortitude Fund. "Dr. Ember-

ton is a CCCU

board member and officer. She is wise, authentic, generous and one of the best partners the CCCU could have," said Shirley Hoogstra, president of the CCCU. "Not only has she led Huntington with grace and grit, but she has volunteered for decades to make all of Christian higher education the best it can be. She brings laughter as well as truth to her service. I have watched and admired her interactions with students and colleagues. She loves people well. She has loved the CCCU well and me, too. I am a better leader because of her."

For her service to higher education, Emberton was recognized as Alumna of the Year by Panola College in 2017 and as an outstanding alum in educational leadership by Texas A&M University-Commerce in 2018. Emberton is the thirteenth president of Huntington University and the first female president in the University's history.

The Huntington University Board of Trustees has secured the services of a national executive search firm, CarterBaldwin Executive Search, to aid the Trustees in naming a new president before Emberton officially retires on May 31, 2025. Additional details regarding the timeline for the search and the process for nominations will be released later.

# **Historical Society's History in Making contest**

Area photographers are invited to enter the History in the Making Photo Contest, sponsored by the Huntington County Historical Society and Frederick's Photography.

Photos of people and sites in Huntington County can be entered in the contest. All photos submitted will become part of the permanent archives of the Huntington County Historical Society, where they will give future residents a glimpse of life in the Huntington County of today.

The winners will be displayed at the Forks of the Wabash Pioneer Festival, at the Huntington County Historical Society booth.

Photos must have been taken in Huntington County within the past five years. Each photo must be accompanied by the following information: photographer's name; address and phone number; date and place where the photo was taken; the names of any people in the photo and the category in which the photo is being entered. Each photographer may enter a maximum of one photograph in each category.

Social environment entries can be photos of people at home, school, work or leisure. Physical environment entries can be interior or exterior photos of man-made structures or sites or photos of natural phenomena such as floods, storms or fires.

Winners will be notified by mail and will be recognized on Saturday at the Pioneer Festival. First place winners will receive a certificate, \$50, and a prize from Frederick's Photography. Second place winners will receive a certificate, \$25 and one-year family membership to the Huntington County Historical Society.

Photos must be submitted no later than September 18 at 4 p.m. Photos must be sub-

### HUNTINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

mitted in print ( $8 \times 10$ ) not framed to the Huntington County History and Education Center at 315 Court Street, Huntington, IN 46750. Center hours are Wednesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

# Save the date! HNHS Future Fair scheduled for September 12

Huntington North High School will host a Future Fair on Thursday, September 12 from 9 to 11 a.m., in the Huntington North High School Fieldhouse. All HNHS juniors and seniors will be attending this event to learn more about employment in the local community.

HNHS is seeking community volunteers to showcase their places of employment. HNHS wants to educate its students on what local employment opportunities are available. You are welcome to bring

HCCSC

your applications (or links to online applications). This is time for local businesses to show students what their future can look like, right here in Huntington County. Promotional items are welcome, and a great way to start a one-on-one conversation with HNHS students.

To secure your booth, email Tiffanney Drummond at tdrummond@hccsc.k12.in.us.



**Dr. Sherilyn Emberton** 

#### September 2024



The Boys & Girls Club of Huntington County held a Huntington County Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting at their new and expanded facility on Tuesday, August 6. Shown in the photo cutting the ribbon on the front row, from left, are Paul Ehler and Haley Robinaugh, Felderman Design-Build; Alexia Ramirez, Youth of the Year; Mandy Reber, executive director, Boys & Girls Club of Huntington County; Sonya Foraker, Parkview Huntington Hospital, board member, and Carla Miller, board member. Back row, from left, include Adrian Halverstadt, Hartburg Roth Garrott & Halverstadt LLP, chair of the board; Tom Mills, First Federal Savings Bank, board member; Aaron Campbell, First Federal Savings Bank, board member; Greg Williams, board member, and Deric Martion, Felderman Design-Build.

## Boys & Girls Club opens with a ribbon cutting

The Boys & Girls Club of Huntington County held a Huntington County Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting on Tuesday, August 6. The ribbon cutting was held at the club's newly expanded facility at 608 E. State Street. Felderman Design-Build was the general contractor for the \$3 million expansion.

During the ribbon cutting Alexia Ramirez, right, Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year, shared her story with those in attendance.

The Boys & Girls Club increased the size of their building by over 16,000 square feet where the club serves over 400 kids every day. The club also opened a facility in Andrews in the Lions Club building across the street from Andrews Elementary School this past Wednesday.

The Boys & Girls Club is open every day after school and all day during the summer to ensure that our youth have a safe, fun and positive environment to be a part of. By doing this, as well as providing high yield activities, targeted programs, and encouraging regular attendance, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington County give members the tools, guidance and opportunities to achieve academic success, to be instilled with good character and citizenship and to maintain healthy lifestyles.

For more information on the Boys & Girls Club of Huntington County call (260) 359-1750, visit them online at hbgchuntington.com or Facebook.

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Big E Promos, 1217 S. Jefferson Street, Suite D, officially opened their new bricks and mortar store with a Huntington County Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting on Tuesday, August 6. Shown in the photo above from left include Paula Whiting, Lake City Bank; Deb Walters, Meyer's mother, Eric Meyer, owner, Big E Promos; Marilyn Groves, sales representative, Big E Promos; Mike Bartkus, Coldwell Banker Real Estate Group and Dan Carmichael, partner, Big E Promos.

# Big E Promos holds ribbon cutting at store

Big E Promos opened their new retail store with a Huntington County Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting on Tuesday, August 6. The new store is located at 1217 S. Jefferson Street.

According to owner, Eric Meyer, Big E Promos has been in business for eight years. What began in the bedroom of his home, then two, and finally three bedrooms, before moving to Innovative Packaging on Flaxmill Road has been strictly an online business. After much thought and consideration with the Chamber and the Indiana Small Business Development Center (ISBDC), Meyer decided to open his retail store on the south side of Huntington.

Big E Promos offers a variety of promotional products such as shirts, T-shirts, pants, jackets and hats to include embroidered and printed apparel. He also offers business logos on cups, bags, bottles, pens, pencils and much more. Big E Promos offers an online store with drop shipping and more.

If you are looking for marketing products for your business, visit Big E. Promos at 1217 S. Jefferson Street, Suite D, call the store at (260) 200-1051, or email Eric at eric@bigepromos.com. You can also visit their website at bigepromos.com or their Facebook here.



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# Chamber supports small business in SCORE/ISBDC

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CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce is a satellite office of the Northeast Indiana SCORE chapter. SCORE is a nonprofit resource partner of the United States Small Business Administration.

It is a resource for small businesses needing confidential busi-

ness advice, and provides one-on-one mentoring in person and online. Business mentors for SCORE are volunteers who have expertise in a variety of industries to provide help to small business owners or those looking to start a business.

SCORE provides sound business planning, product and service reviews, financial insights, marketing and promotion recommendations, resource planning, strategies for starting and improving vendor relationships, exit planning and more.

Huntington's SCORE office began through sponsorship and support. A strong base of support is available through community leaders and service clubs. For information visit www.score.org.

The Chamber also offers business mentoring and services through their affiliation with the Indiana Small Business Development Center (ISBDC). Call to book an appointment. All business mentoring are free to those interested.



# Farmer's Market open at EUM Church

The Huntington Farmer's Market remains open for the 2024 season on Wednesdays. The Farmer's Market will operate at the Evangelical United Methodist Church (EUM), 1000 Flaxmill Road. The market will take place, as in past years, on Wednesdays from 4 to 7 p.m.

Those having questions about the market can call the Chamber at (260) 356-5300.



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# Entrepreneurial 'Meet & Greet' September 9

The Chamber's Entrepreneurial Leadership Council will hold its next Entrepreneurial 'Meet & Greet' on Monday, September 9, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Brick House Grill, 19 W. Washington Street, Huntington.

The gathering will feature speakers Barbra Sprinkle, co-owner of the Brick House Grill, and John Paff, owner of Fort Wayne Marketing.



Sprinkle will speak about how she and husband Andy became involved in the restaurant business. She will also talk about the rewards of business ownership, and share how being an entrepreneur is much different than an employee. She will also share some ups and downs of business ownership.

Paff, right, will speak to the group and share his background in marketing. Paff, a Huntington resident, is the founder and CEO of Fort Wayne Marketing. Paff will share some of the excitement of business ownership and how he has grown his business during some challenging times in the economy. Fort Wayne Marketing is known for helping other businesses with their branding, video production, marketing tactics and social media platforms among other marketing tips.

If you are an entrepreneur, aspiring entrepreneur, own your own business, thinking about starting a business or simply interested in learning more about growing entrepreneurial wealth in Huntington County, this gathering is for you. If you would like to attend this get-together reply to skimmel@huntingtonchamber.com. There is no cost to attend, but you must RSVP as the Chamber needs to know how many will be attending. Food will be prepared by the Brick House Grill.

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#### September 2024

#### **Huntington County Chamber of Commerce**



A groundbreaking was held for the new Iwo Jima Memorial on Monday, August 19 at Memorial Park. Shown on the front row from left are Joseph Bentz, Patriot Excavating; Terry Thornsbury, Viridian Architectural Design, Inc.; Beth and Christopher Shortridge, organizers; Dan and Barb Drummond, Huntington Sheet Metal; Satin Lemon, volunteer; Seth Marshall, volunteer; Robb Fults, ACB General Contractors; Diann Parker, volunteer and Tim Eckert, Veterans Service Officer. Back row, Rick Stump, Viridian Architectural Design, Inc.; Mayor Richard Strick, Adam Cuttriss, City of Huntington, Steven Yoder, Huntington Parks & Recreation Department; Brett Hoopingarner, and Mark Parker, both volunteers.

### Iwo Jima groundbreaking held on August 19

A groundbreaking was held on Monday, August 19 at Memorial Park for the newest addition of an Iwo Jima memorial. Plans call for the memorial to be unveiled during Veterans Day on November 11.

Iwo Jima is an island in the Pacific that provided a place for an air campaign to be waged against mainland Japan. Nearly 7,000 Marines died on this island, making it the bloodiest day in Marine Corps history.

According to Christopher Shortridge, the organizer of the Iwo Jima memorial, "Over 16 million American veterans took part in World War II. Of those veterans there are less than 100,000 remaining today."

"We have been raising money since 2016 and are finally breaking ground. The ceremony/unveiling will be held on Monday, November 11 at 11 a.m. at the Memorial Park site, at the top of Bartlett Street across from the pond," said Shortridge

If anyone would like to get involved via a donation or in the events, which include a run/walk in November and our golf outings in June, please email shortridge\_1@yahoo.com, and he will be happy to assist you.





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Christmas Dinner

Learn to Earn Program

Hope 61

Mentorship



# HARTA to celebrate 10 years on September 19

Join HARTA in commemorating their 10th anniversary with a dinner and social gathering among fellow trail enthusiasts. The dinner will be held at the Habecker Dining Commons on the campus of Huntington University on Thursday, September 19 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.



Let's celebrate while discussing

ongoing and upcoming trail projects in our community. The proceeds from this event will support trail development, maintenance, education and raising awareness about trails in Huntington County.

Dinner will feature a choice of salmon or chicken as the main course, accompanied by steamed brown rice, green beans, garden salad, potato salad, dessert, tea or water.

The evening promises a variety of activities, including guest speakers and chances to win prizes donated by local businesses. Stay tuned for more exciting updates.

The cost to attend is \$40 per person or \$280 for a table of eight. Tickets can be purchased by mailing the completed registration form available at www.harta-gotrails.org along with a check payable to HARTA at P.O. Box 5005, Huntington, IN 46750, or by clicking the Buy Tickets button here.

The doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will begin at 6 p.m.



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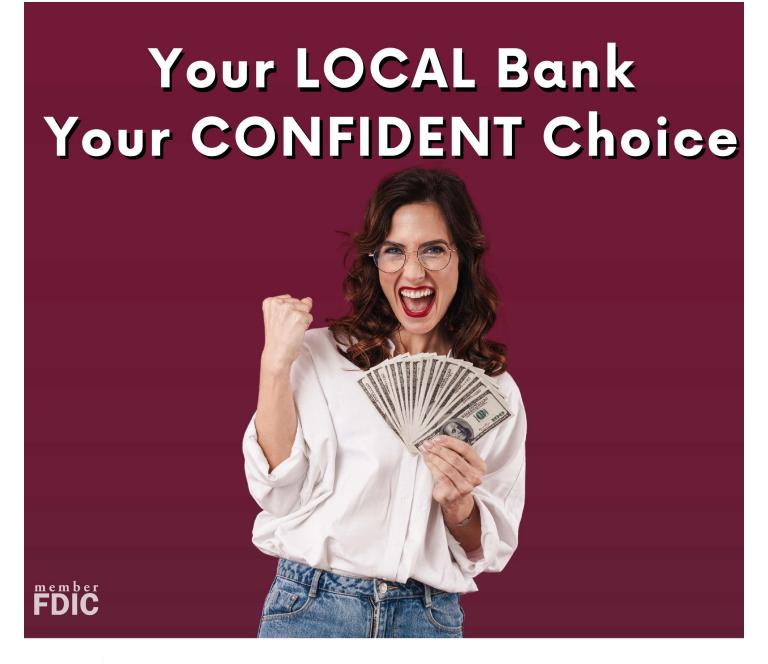
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# Mark Your Calendars

#### **Roanoke Fall Festival**

Saturday, September 5, 6 and 7 Downtown and around the Town of Roanoke

#### **Entrepreneurial 'Meet & Greet'**

Monday, September 9, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Brick House Grill, 19 W. Washington Street

#### A B.I.G. Day Golf Outing

Wednesday, September 11, Lunch 11 a.m.; Start 12 Noon Maple Grove Golf Course, 5961 W. Maple Grove Road

#### **Sweetwater All Stars**

Saturday, September 14, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Downtown Huntington on E. Franklin Street

#### **Pioneer Festival**

Saturday, September 28 and Sunday, September 29 Hier's Park

#### For A Complete Calendar of Events

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