

HeraldTimesOnline.com

Monroe County honored as Indiana College Success County

Award recognizes efforts to promote high school graduation, get more grads to earn post-secondary credentials

By April Toler
June 10, 2013

331-4353 | atoler@heraldt.com

Monroe County was recently recognized as an Indiana College Success County for its efforts to increase the number of residents with education and training beyond high school.

“It is an honor for the High School Plus Coalition to accept the College Success County recognition,” Barry Lessow, executive director of United Way of Monroe County, said via email. “Each of the coalition members focuses on helping all kids graduate and leave school with a purposeful plan for their future.”

The Indiana College Success County award was presented to 26 counties that have “established a coalition of community organizations to promote graduation and improve college and career success.”

In order to receive the award, coalitions had to create a data-driven strategic plan that aims at increasing the percentage of high school graduates and returning adults who enter a postsecondary institution and earn a credential, according to information from the Monroe County High School Plus Coalition.

That credential could be a one-year workforce certificate, two- or four-year college degree, apprenticeship or military training.

Led by the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce Franklin Initiative and United Way of Monroe County, the Monroe County High School Plus Coalition works with more than 40 organizations to help area youth “grow, graduate and pursue their goals.”

According to Ashley Hall, co-coordinator of the coalition and initiatives director for the United Way of Monroe County Community, youth who drop out of school are likely to earn less and be twice as likely to be unemployed as those who graduate, and eight times more likely to be in jail or prison.

“This is why the High School Plus Coalition is so important,” she said via news release. “We are coming together as a community to make sure that kids successfully finish high school and leave with a purposeful plan for their future.”

For more information about the High School Plus Coalition, visit www.monroeunitedway.org/highschoolplus.

Organizations interested in joining the coalition may contact Ashley Hall at ash@monroeunitedway.org or Macy Hughes at mhughes@chamberbloomington.org.

Copyright: HeraldTimesOnline.com 2013