



## A Blueprint for College and Career Readiness

Leadership Hendricks County  
Class of 2015

### Reason for Action

- By the year 2020, nearly 2/3 of all U.S. jobs will require a two- or four-year degree
- Indiana currently ranks 40<sup>th</sup> of all states in higher education
- College cost and student debt have been highly publicized issues

### How we got here?

- Team passion for education supporting post-secondary education in Hendricks County
- Team identified need to start working with children and families early in the school career
- Evaluation of programs that help support children and families in financing a post-secondary education
- Evaluation of programs to assist with education funding:
  - Promise Indiana
  - Indiana College 529 Savings Plan
  - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholarship Program

### Narrowing our focus

- Superintendent from Northwest Hendricks Co. spoke at LHC Education day – team impressed by his passion and willingness to work with our team
- Northwest Hendricks demographics fit our project and needs of the Indiana 529 Savings Plan

### Goals of Program

- Encourage students to pursue post-secondary educational opportunities
- Educate parents of elementary age students on the costs of post-secondary education
- Educate on opportunities to begin saving now
- Involve students in activities that promote thinking around post-secondary opportunities

### Our Plan

- Tie into activities already going on during “College Go Week!”
- Identify education leaders to partner with our team
- Use strengths of team members to pull event together
- Bring the resource experts to the parents
- Provide value – essay contest
- Refreshments never hurt!

### Identification of Educational Partners

- Mill Creek Community School Corporation
  - Small student population (1,570)
  - 2 elementary schools for essay program
  - District has county's highest free/reduced lunch population at 30%
  - College/career readiness need: only 25% of 2014 graduates took Advanced Placement course (state avg. 33.4%)

### Identification of Educational Partners

- Indiana College Choice Direct 529 Plan
  - State sponsored college savings plan with low start up funds, no fees, and tax credits
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars
  - Needs and performance based program providing up to 4 year college scholarships to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students
- Hendricks College Network
  - Adult learning initiatives for parents

### Our Event

- Mill Creek East Elementary School Tuesday September 22, 2015 @ 6:30 pm
- Principals and Superintendent Present
- Speaker representing 529 Savings Plan
- On site vendors:
  - North Salem State Bank
  - Hendricks College Network
  - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars
- Refreshments provided by Chick-Fil-a



### COLLEGE GO WEEK ACTIVITIES AT MILL CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

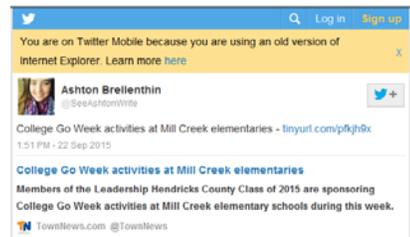
**PRESS RELEASE**

Members of the Leadership Hendricks County Class of 2015 will be sponsoring College Go Week activities at Mill Creek elementary schools during the week of September 21. College Go Week is a statewide initiative focused on encouraging students to pursue post-secondary educational opportunities. Many Indiana colleges waive application fees during College Go Week and high schools across the state plan activities that encourage students to explore college and career options, but Mill Creek East Elementary School Principal Wendy Myers noted that, "In the spirit of raising our students in a 'You're going to college!' culture, we should participate as well" at the elementary school level. All students at both Mill Creek elementary schools will have the opportunity to submit an essay about their future career plans and one essay contest winner will receive a \$529 contribution to a college savings account, courtesy of the North Salem State Bank. Giving students an opportunity to think and write about their career goals is a great way to start the college planning process for younger students.

Recent studies show that low to moderate income students with even a small college savings account (less than \$500) are up to four times more likely to attend college than students with no college savings plan. Parents of Mill Creek Community School Corporation elementary students are invited to attend a college saving workshop at Mill Creek East Elementary School at 6:30 on Tuesday, September 22. At the College Go Week Parent Night, a representative from the Indiana College Choice Direct 529 savings plan will give a short presentation about college costs and the benefits of a 529 savings plan. Afterwards, parents can visit a variety of exhibitors like the Hendricks College Network and the Indiana 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars program and can use the school's computer lab to open a college savings account on the spot. Parents wishing to start a 529 savings account will need to have their social security number and birth date, along with the social security number and birth date of their child. Plans can be opened with as little as \$10 and may provide valuable tax benefits.

The essay contest and parent night event are part of a Leadership Hendricks County capstone project developed and executed by a volunteer group of local business and community members. For more information about Leadership Hendricks County, visit [www.LeadershipHendricksCounty.org](http://www.LeadershipHendricksCounty.org).

### Use of Social Media Resources



## Engaging Students



**College Go Week Essay Contest**  
Figuring out what you want to be when you get older is exciting!

*"What I want to be When I Grow Up!"*



Essay contest winner receives a \$529 contribution into a CollegeChoice 529 savings plan sponsored by North Salem State Bank

## Essay Details

- Maximum of 529 words
- Initial essay screening done by LHC class
- Top 20 reviewed by panel of educators using defined criteria
- Each child who submitted an essay receives a thank you note as well as a 529 Savings Plan informational brochure

## A bump in the road.....

- Team member had concerns that a portion of essay were not properly cited
- Team member validated that portion of the essay was taken directly from school's web site without reference
- School official notified immediately
- Group discussion regarding disqualification of winner
- Questions regarding where in curriculum plagiarism is taught
- Team member reviewed education standards and found summarizing and crediting a source are Indiana Academic Standards for 4<sup>th</sup> grade and understanding how to avoid plagiarism is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade standard
- After thorough team discussion consensus to disqualify first place contestant and award to second place essay

## And the winner is.....



What I want to be when I grow up

By: Michael Hutchison

I would like to go to Purdue to become a nature photographer. Being a nature photographer is a great way for me to get outside and see nature for what it really is. I think Purdue would want me to go to their school because I am a hard worker and I never give up on what I really want to do. College would help me become what I want to be because it will get me a good chance to improve what I do and do not know and to challenge me to become better and give me professionalism. The scholarship money would really help me because I do not want to get accepted but use all my mom and dad's money and cause them to not be able to buy the stuff that they want. So that is what I want to be when I grow up.

## Special Thanks to our Partners

- Mill Creek Schools
- North Salem State Bank
- Chick-Fil-a of Avon
- Hendricks College Network
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars
- 529 Savings Plan

CollegeChoice 529  
529 SAVINGS PLAN



## Special Thanks

- Susan Rozzi
- Joan Mattison
- Mill Creek Schools
- Wendy Meyers
- Missy Call
- Our employers for supporting us in LHC Class of 2015 – Best Class Ever!!!!

Questions?



11/17/2015

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# Parent Night

September 22,

6:30 PM

## Mill Creek East Elementary

We know you want your child to succeed and we want to share opportunities available to help you achieve that!

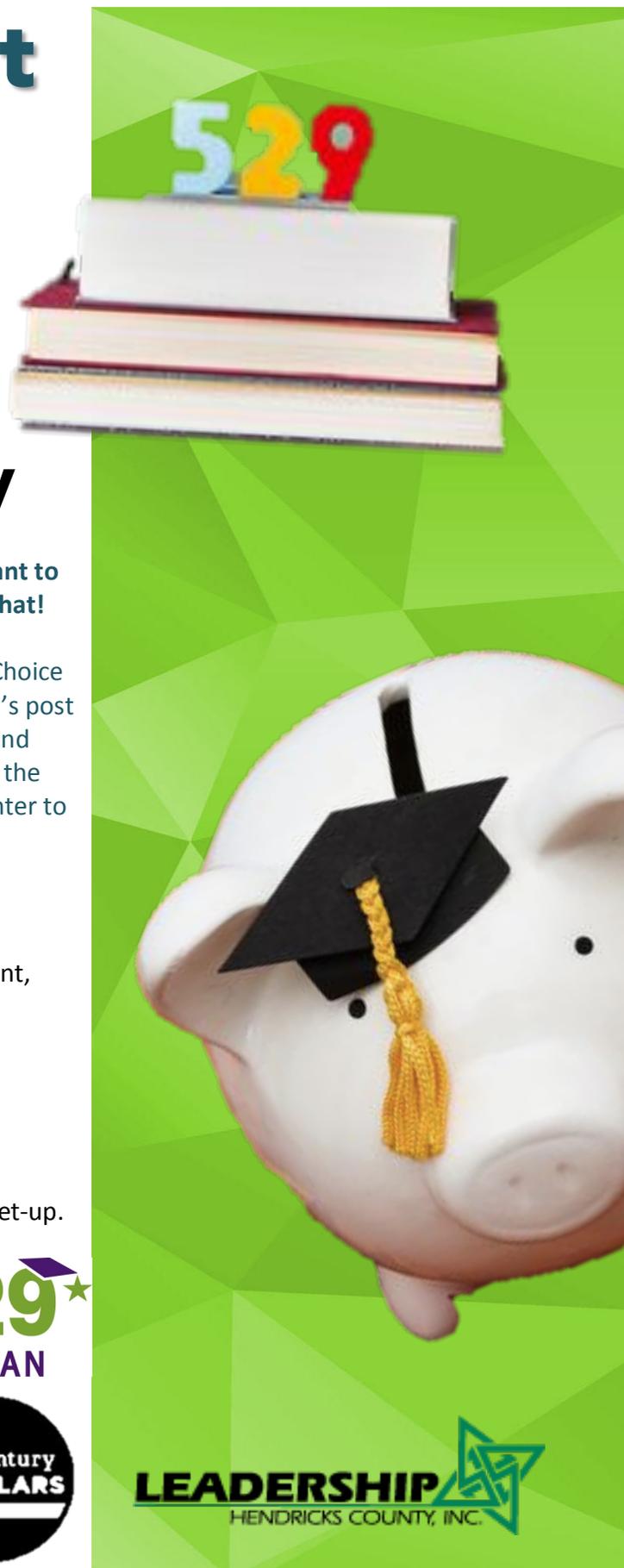
At Parent Night, you'll learn about starting a College Choice 529 Plan to help your family prepare to fund your child's post secondary education. You'll also find information and resources about the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Program, the Hendricks College Network, and how your child can enter to win \$529 towards their own 529 Plan!  
Refreshments will be provided.

If you are interested in setting up a 529 Plan at the event, please be sure to bring the following information:

- Names of parent and child
- Date of Birth for parent and child
- Social Security Numbers for parent and child

There will be a representative available to assist with set-up.

CollegeChoice **529**    
DIRECT SAVINGS PLAN



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