

# StoneGate Selects Board

The StoneGate Arts & Education Center Board of Directors conducted its initial meeting Jan. 13, in the StoneGate Center Board Room.

Board members attending included Brian Blackwell, Jamie Blackwell, Gary Conner, Julie Hewetson and Everett Southern. Board member Nathan Nikirk was unable to attend.

Guests included Debbie Deckard of Turpin & Deckard, Bedford Mayor Shawna Girgis, Bedford Business and Community Development Director Marla Jones and StoneGate employees Executive Director Gene McCracken and Program Manager Susan Hayes.

Members elected a slate of officers for 2016. They are: Jamie Blackwell, president; Julie Hewetson, vice president; Gary Conner, secretary; and Nathan Nikirk, treasurer.

StoneGate Center, which is now a 501(c)(3), was incorporated Jan. 1. Gene McCracken, with help from Debbie Deckard, explained



the documentation of StoneGate's Certificate and Articles of Incorporation and the way in which it came about.

Susan Hayes outlined the history of StoneGate and offered a brief rundown of its current activities, including Ivy Tech and Oakland City University personnel, offices and classes, the Land of Limestone Exhibition, the business incubator businesses, eight 4-H Limestone Robotics teams, SOAR Adult Literacy office and tutoring spaces, Orbits Futbol soccer program offices, and the Northwest

Assembly Hall and other meeting room and classroom availability.

Marla Jones and Mayor Shawna Girgis reported on the history, development and current status of StoneGate Downtown, and discussed the importance of education to the Lawrence County community.

Jones explained the project came about as the result of the success of Bedford's third Stellar grant application. She and Mayor Girgis shared the Stellar application budget, Architect Christine Matheu's budget and Tri-County Builders' budget, as well as architectural renderings and cost estimates, including costs of the alternate additions.

Current expected costs are over budget without the five alternates. However, the project could move forward without those alternate additions, which are not structurally necessary but are highly desirable, Mayor Girgis said.

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## Meet the Members



Brian Blackwell



Jamie Blackwell



Gary Conner



Julie Hewetson



Nathan Nikirk



Everett Southern

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## StoneGate Arts & Education Center welcomes fledgling business entrepreneurs

Currently, the StoneGate facility is home to five business incubator start-ups:

- 5D Analytics, a software service company licensing and commercializing government technologies to optimize planning, scheduling and milestone management;
- CommonSense Bookkeeping, LLC, a bookkeeping company specializing in small businesses;
- Bolton Custom Woodworking, featuring hand-

crafted and designed wooden items;

- CPI Bridge, a company offering drainage solution products for municipal highway departments and contractors in Indiana;
- Robert Williams & Co., a design firm specializing in historic restoration.

At present, these incubator spaces are available free of charge. Ideally, as the businesses begin to flourish, rental costs will adjust on a sliding scale until the individual enterprises are solvent enough to

strike out on their own.

Interested business owners must provide a business plan, offer an estimation of how long the business will remain at StoneGate, convey the specific accommodations they will require, and be willing to discuss costs related to internet and electrical usage. Approximately six possible incubator spaces are available at StoneGate Center.

For more information, call Gene McCracken or Susan Hayes at (812) 279-8126 or send e-mail to [gene@stonegateeducation.com](mailto:gene@stonegateeducation.com) or [susan@stonegateeducation.com](mailto:susan@stonegateeducation.com).

We're on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/stonegateartsandeducation](http://www.facebook.com/stonegateartsandeducation)

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STONEGATE CENTER —  
DEVELOPING, LEARNING,  
CREATING

# INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS

## LC STEAM: Robotics in Residence

In Lawrence County Indiana, tomorrow starts today.

Tomorrow starts in the minds of our community's youth.

Tomorrow starts in the willingness of our adults to share their wealth of life experiences.

Tomorrow starts when a community identifies a place for these two unstoppable forces to come together, build memories, and encourage dreams.

Lawrence County STEAM paired with StoneGate Arts & Education Center is Lawrence

**RIGHT:** 4-H Limestone Robotics team members worked hard to earn multiple awards at the FLL Trash Trek Qualifications Tournament in Columbus, Ind., Nov. 14, 2015.



County's solution to establishing such a meeting place.

This "Technical Field of Dreams" is a place where successful adults encourage young minds to dream about great things; a place that inspires young hands to reach out and shape an ever-changing world; a place that steers young feet as they travel to places yet unseen; and finally, a place that encourages young hearts as they fall in love with critical skills like Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM).

## Ivy Tech

Ivy Tech Community College spring classes at StoneGate Arts & Education Center have begun.

The next Ivy Tech Express Enrollment Day at StoneGate Center will be 10 a.m.-6 p.m. March 2. Express Enrollment Day is open to anyone who would like to enroll at Ivy Tech-Bedford. Students can complete applications, take the Accuplacer Assessment, complete orientation and be ready to enroll.

To sign up for college classes in Lawrence County, visit [www.ivytech.edu/bloomington/bedford](http://www.ivytech.edu/bloomington/bedford).

For more information about Ivy Tech offerings at StoneGate Center, call Ivy Tech Community Outreach Coordinator Vonda Clay at (812) 279-8126 or e-mail [vclay@ivytech.edu](mailto:vclay@ivytech.edu).



## Oakland City University

Oakland City University offers accredited associate, bachelor and master of science degrees in an accelerated format at StoneGate Center.

OCU is a military friendly university and has participated in the Yellow Ribbon Program since 2008.

Tuition is free for qualified veterans who have served at least 36 months' active duty since Sept. 11, 2001.

New classes begin every five weeks, so students can register to begin their coursework at any time.

Online classes, on-site classes as well as Adobe classes are available.

For more information about OCU-Bedford and its current or upcoming offerings, call Cheryl Bolton or Sincerae Aslinger at (812) 279-8126, or send e-mail to [cbolton@oak.edu](mailto:cbolton@oak.edu) or [saslinger@oak.edu](mailto:saslinger@oak.edu).



## Did you know?

- An estimated 40 million adults in the U.S. have poor reading skills, condemning them to low earnings, a lower quality of life and limited opportunities.
- As many as 750,000 adults in Indiana can't read well enough to understand:

Job applications  
Highway signs  
Child's homework  
Warning signs  
Monthly bills  
Shopping ads  
Food labels  
Newspapers



- **Call SOAR! if you:**
  - Want to receive reading help.
  - Are an employer and you have an employee who needs reading help.
  - Want to volunteer as a tutor or office helper.
  - Want to contribute financially.
  - Would like more information.

**SOAR! of Lawrence County**  
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Those alternate additions include items such as an east entrance for the ease of access to the building from the back parking lot, and adding "green" elements to the project, such as solar panels and skylights. Board members discussed additional possible funding sources.

Brian Blackwell asked about the numbers of students currently enrolled in Ivy Tech Community College and Oakland City University. Susan Hayes estimated Ivy Tech enrollment at about 100 students, and Oakland City University student enrollment at approximately 50 students.

Following the meeting, several board members toured the StoneGate Center facility and Land of Limestone Museum.

The next meeting will be at 5 p.m., March 2 in the StoneGate Arts & Education Center Board Room.