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To that end, StoneGate Center will expand to include a second location at 15th and J streets in the former JC Penney building.

StoneGate Center Downtown will provide a site on the Lawrence County Courthouse Square for job training, degree work and professional training in collaborative partnerships with Oakland City University, Ivy Tech Community College, Vincennes University, Radius Indiana, WestGate Academy and North Lawrence Career Center.

In addition, the organizers' goal is for the site to house a branch of the Indiana University Chinese Flagship Center, which will offer Mandarin language courses.

StoneGate Center will partner with the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence County and the Lawrence County Museum of History for youth training and education, and with local performing arts groups to present independent films and cultural events.

The combined StoneGate

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**BEDFORD —**

Ind. Gov. Mike Pence, shown at right, addressed a group of Lawrence County area community members during a Town Hall Meeting at StoneGate Arts & Education Center.



**Continued**

Centers will offer workforce development to ensure international, national, regional and local impact for skilled trades, advanced manufacturing and information technology needs of the future.

**StoneGate Arts & Education Center**

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Opening the  
door to  
lifelong  
learning

# StoneGate Center — Developing, Learning, Creating



**BEDFORD** — Bedford Mayor Shawna Girgis displays her support for education by marking the opening of StoneGate Arts & Education Center with a ribbon cutting to introduce Indiana Education Week.

**S**toneGate Arts & Education Center occupies the former Indiana Limestone Co./Oakland City University site at 405 I St., Bedford.

Constructed in 1926, the facility earned a place on the National Register of Historic Places and the Indiana Register of Historic Sites and Places in 1993.

Oakland City University purchased the building from Indiana Limestone in 1983, renaming it Bedford College Center and later, Oakland City University-Bedford. OCU paid off and burned the mortgage in 1989.

On July 1, 2014 Oakland City University presented the building to the City of Bedford, which renamed the educational facility StoneGate Arts & Education Center. The Lawrence County Economic Growth Council served as the



**J**uly 1, 1994 marked the opening and dedication of The Land of

Limestone Museum, a popular exhibit still housed in the facility denoting sites throughout the United States constructed of Indiana limestone.

site's managing partner for the City of Bedford. StoneGate incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in January 2016.

Although the building has changed ownership and names, StoneGate Center continues to serve as a community learning center and currently provides accommodation to two schools: Oakland City University-Bedford and Ivy Tech Community College, Bedford.

Discussions are underway to deliver access to additional higher-education providers at StoneGate Center.



**BEDFORD** — StoneGate Center's Historic Reception Room, left, features stained glass windows denoting stone carvers at work. Highlights of the Historic Indiana Limestone Co. Boardroom, right, include a hand-painted ceiling and solid oak table. Both rooms include carved limestone fireplaces.



**BEDFORD** — Bedford Mayor Shawna Girgis presented Gene McCracken, StoneGate Center Executive Director and Lawrence County Economic Growth Council Executive Director, with a proclamation in honor of Lawrence County Education Week.

StoneGate Center has provided and will continue to provide meeting space to various educational, non-profit and governmental organizations.

The facility offers classrooms, office space, workrooms and meeting rooms to business start-ups, STEAM robotics groups and non-profit organizations

In addition, the building is available to employers for workforce development and professional training classes.

Currently, about 170 Ivy Tech and 60 OCU students attend classes in the building.

As one of two winners of Lt. Gov. Sue Ellspermann's Indiana's 2013 Stellar Communities, Bedford's plan focuses on downtown development and workforce training.

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