

**About StoneGate Arts & Education Center**

In July 2014, The City of Bedford engaged the Lawrence County Economic Growth Council Inc. to manage the former Indiana Limestone Co. facility at 405 I St., Bedford, when it acquired the building from Oakland City University.

The facility, which was listed on the National and Indiana Registers of Historic Places in 1993, was renamed StoneGate Arts & Education Center.

The City of Bedford provides $160,000 annually to oversee and maintain the facility. The Executive Director and Program Manager supervise and care for the building with the assistance of a staff of two part-time maintenance/housekeeping personnel. StoneGate Arts & Education Center, Inc., was incorporated as a non-profit Oct. 16, 2015, and began managing the building Jan. 1, 2016. StoneGate Center is governed by a seven-member volunteer board of directors.

**Goals**

It is StoneGate’s goal to provide a local educational learning center facility in tandem with a community home for workforce development via business incubator spaces, as well as a meeting site for educational, governmental, community and youth education groups and community enrichment programs of all types.

**Educational Commitment**

StoneGate Center provides classrooms and office space to **Ivy Tech Community College** and **Oakland City University**, allowing local residents the opportunity to attend college classes in Lawrence County and obtain a college degree or for personal enrichment.

StoneGate Center features 11 available classrooms plus two large computer labs and two smaller labs. Both the larger labs and one of the smaller labs double as classrooms, for a total of 14 classrooms. Currently, approximately 50-60 OCU students and 172 Ivy Tech students attend classes at StoneGate.

Vonda Clay, Ivy Tech Director of Community Outreach, and Dr. Judith Burton, Ivy Tech Coordinator for Center for Lifelong Learning for Orange and Lawrence County, began conducting regular business hours at StoneGate Center in January 2016. Vonda is available at StoneGate Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Cheryl Bolton, OCU Academic Program Coordinator and Admissions Counselor, and Doran Kruse, OCU Administrative Assistant, staff the Oakland City University offices Monday-Friday at StoneGate Center.

OCU plans to re-institute the quarterly Human Resources Forum meetings originally hosted by the Lawrence County Economic Growth Council. The initial meeting will be at StoneGate in mid-November. OCU will provide the lunch and the program. Subsequent meetings will be hosted by other participants who will provide the lunch and program for those meetings.

StoneGate and **Vincennes University** are in talks to offer classes and certifications at the facility.

**Land of Limestone Exhibition**

The Land of Limestone Exhibit, featuring more than 200 archival and architectural photographs, historical news accounts, official records and documents, is located on the first and third floors of the facility. The exhibit is open to the public, free of charge, Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Business Incubators**

In support of the City of Bedford’s focus on “building a better Bedford,” StoneGate Center is making offices available for business people interested in launching new small business enterprises in the Lawrence County area.

Currently, the StoneGate facility is home to six business incubators, and one more is in the process of securing an office:

* **5D Analytics**, a software service company licensing and commercializing government technologies to optimize planning, scheduling and milestone management;
* **Common$en$e Bookkeeping, LLC**, a bookkeeping company specializing in small businesses;
* **Bolton Custom Woodworking**, featuring unique hand-crafted and designed wooden items;
* **E3Bridge**, a company offering drainage solution products for municipal highway departments and contractors in Indiana;
* **Robert Williams & Co.**, a design firm specializing in historic restoration;
* **AP Studio**, an art enterprise offering after-school and summer activities for children and group and individual lessons for adults.

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 are required to provide a business plan, offer an estimation of how long the business will remain at StoneGate Center, convey the specific accommodations they will require, and be willing to discuss costs related to internet and electrical usage.

**Non-profits**

* Eight **4-H Limestone Robotics** teams comprising young people ages K-12 meet in five different rooms at StoneGate Center, two of which are in the process of being remodeled. Limestone Robotics is an organization structured to support Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics Education and Robotics (STEAM) education and robotics in Lawrence and surrounding counties.
* **Bedford Public Library** currently conducts 3D Maker classes at StoneGate Center, using StoneGate’s new 3D printer.
* **SOAR! (Success and Opportunity At Reading)** adult literacy has an office at StoneGate, and a number of volunteer tutors meet with students in StoneGate meeting rooms.
* **Orbits Futbol Soccer** program is based in offices at StoneGate Center.
* **American Red Cross, Hoosier Hills Chapter** has relocated to StoneGate. The group uses the facility’s office and storage space. Although the Red Cross does not conduct classes at this time, it is open to do so by special request.

**Events and Meetings**

The Northwest Assembly Hall meeting room accommodates 60-80 people. Smaller conference rooms and classrooms are also available.

Rooms are offered at no charge weekdays and at a nominal charge on weekends for educational, community, workforce development and governmental uses. Private and for-profit groups may use the facility for a minimal charge.

StoneGate’s meeting facilities have been used for:

* “A Ride Through History” Motorcycle Tour Meeting Sight
* 5-D Analytics Meetings
* American Lung Association Media Training
* AP Studios After-School Classes and Summer Art Camp
* Bedford Chamber of Commerce’s Business After Hours
* Bedford City Council Meetings
* City of Bedford INDOT Stellar Community Project Meetings
* City of Bedford’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Public Meetings, Milwaukee Trail Planning Meetings
* German American Bank’s “First-Time Home Buyers” Seminar
* Hoosier Uplands Lawrence County College Success Coalition Meetings, “It Takes A Village” Teen Pregnancy Prevention Meeting and Tobacco Cessation Training
* Hoosier Uplands/Radius Indiana/Indiana Youth Institute-sponsored Youth Worker Café Meetings
* Indian Creek Township Advisory Board Meetings
* Indiana Connections Academy ISTEP Testing for Homeschool Students
* Indiana First Lady Karen Pence’s Bicentennial Celebration Meeting
* Indiana Gov. Mike Pence’s Town Hall Meeting
* Indiana Landmarks Heritage Society Tour Meeting
* Indiana Professional Management (IPMG) Meeting
* Indiana Region 8 Workforce Development’s Quarterly Meetings and Board Meetings
* Indiana University Health Bedford Hospital Yearly Meeting
* Indiana’s “School-To-Work Collaborative” Employment Provider Meeting
* Isagenix Nutritional Cleansing Meetings
* Ivy Tech Advisory Team meetings, Monthly Express Enrollment Events
* Ivy Tech Center For Lifelong Learning Personal Enrichment Courses
* Ivy Tech Corporate College’s Advanced Manufacturing Program (AMP) and Certified Production Technician (CPT) Training Classes and Graduation Ceremony
* Lawrence County Community Foundation “Brush and Brunch” Fundraiser
* Lawrence County Economic Growth Council’s Community Entrepreneurship Initiative Meeting
* Lawrence County Education Taskforce Meetings
* Lawrence County Judicial Review Committee Meetings and Board Meetings
* Leadership Lawrence County Meetings, Graduation Ceremonies and “How to Work A Job Fair” Meeting
* Mary Kay Meetings
* Oakland City University All-Campus Staff Meeting and Yearly Orientations
* Orbit Futbol Soccer Club Board Meetings and Offices
* Robotics Meetings, Competitions, Summer Camp and Exhibitions
* Shawswick Township 1-A and 1-B Polling Site
* Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM) Annual Meeting
* Tri-Kappa Meetings
* General Motors, Bedford, Meetings/Training
* ROI (Regional Opportunity Initiatives) Meetings
* Probation Department/Juvenile Court Training

**For More Information**

Additional information about StoneGate Arts & Education Center is available at its website: [www.stonegateeducation.com](http://www.stonegateeducation.com) or on its Facebook page.