



**A C C E**

*American Chamber of Commerce Executives*

**news release  
for immediate release**

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**Dennis Andrews Successfully Completes  
Regional Sustainable Development Fellowship**

**Alexandria, VA October 16, 2009** - The American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) is pleased to announce that Dennis Andrews, President and CEO of the Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce has successfully completed the Fellowship for Regional Sustainable Development (RSD), funded by the Ford Foundation.

“Spurring sustainable development is one of the major issues facing business-led civic organizations, as they seek to broaden economic opportunity for the people in their regions,” says Mick Fleming, president of ACCE. “The Fellowship allowed regional leaders like Dennis to deepen their understanding of the policies and practices that foster inclusive long-term growth and enhanced quality of life.”

Andrews was one of 54 Fellows, representing diverse communities and personal backgrounds from across North America, who participated in the program. There are now more than 90 graduates of the Fellowship program.

The Fellowship is a unique 12-month program for regional leaders who build communities and economies. It provides hands-on training, peer knowledge exchange, research, and examination of working models covering a wide range of growth and sustainability issues; including but not limited to infrastructure, immigration, land use, housing, education, environment, and social inclusion. Drawing on the tools, policies and practices learned during the Fellowship, each participant crafts a “regional action project” that addresses an opportunity for or barrier to creating sustainable, inclusive prosperity for his or her own region..

As a result of Dennis’ participation in this prestigious national program, a plan has been written for area Chambers of Commerce in east central Indiana and west central Ohio to establish a new network of communications, one that reaches across state lines.

The area project, titled Bright Futures Together, aimed at regional sustainable development will continue for the foreseeable future involving various sectors of the economy and area communities. Economic data for the region will be examined, strategic responses planned and carried out, and resources shared.

The simple explanation and incentive for the project is for predominately rural communities like Wayne County, Indiana and those counties surrounding Wayne County to work together in order to successfully compete with larger communities in the global marketplace.

Best practices to assimilate critical mass of resources and encourage sustainability, innovation, and entrepreneurship are expected outcomes of the Bright Futures initiative.

#### **About the Ford Foundation**

The 2008-2009 Program represents the second year that the Ford Foundation, headquartered in New York, has funded the Fellowship. Over the Foundation's 70-year history, over \$15 billion in funding distributed world-wide has supported programs related to asset building and community development; peace and social justice; and knowledge, creativity and freedom.

#### **About the American Chamber of Commerce of Commerce Executives**

Established in 1914, ACCE is the only national association uniquely serving the professional development needs of individuals managing chambers of commerce throughout the United States and Canada. Representing more than 6,000 professionals, ACCE enhances the knowledge, leadership skills, and management effectiveness of chamber executives and their staffs through education, trend analysis, benchmarking, and best practices. ACCE promotes the highest standards of professional excellence and integrity within the chamber profession.

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