

PROFILE

328 N. West St.
Tipton, IN 46072

schmickerk@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Economic Development Institute

Started 2019

Oklahoma University

Economic Development Course

January 2018

Ball State University
Muncie, IN

Bachelor of Science Accounting

May 2012

Butler University
Indianapolis, IN

Bachelor of Science Management Information Systems

May 2012

Butler University
Indianapolis, IN

Indiana Real Estate Broker December 2012

KEGAN SCHMICKER

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Tipton County Chamber of Commerce | Executive Director

Tipton, IN | Sept 2020 - Present

As an organization with only one staff member, it is imperative for my role to manage all of the day-to-day activities as well as positioning our organization strategically through various partnerships. In my short tenure I have successfully purchased a downtown building, partnered with Shafer Leadership Academy to create a local leadership academy, in the final negotiations to create a Chamber Foundation, and the first Chamber in the state to create a partnership with IU Health Plans. In addition, I am also looking to publish a variety of events in 2021 to reintroduce safe networking to our community.

Economic & Community Development Consultant | City of Tipton

Tipton, IN | 2017 - June 2020

I worked directly with the Mayor of Tipton to identify projects that we feel would benefit the greater community. Projects have included partnering with our local main street association, executing a downtown revitalization plan, business attraction, industrial park expansion strategies, rural broadband, community branding and marketing, and downtown redevelopment.

Black Frog Designs | Owner

Tipton, IN | 2013 - Present

Black Frog Designs began as a web design studio and has slowly morphed into a digital advertising company. I'm a soloprenuer, and have thus been challenged to manage every aspect of the business, from web design, graphic design, bookkeeping, marketing, consulting, and customer service.

LOCAL LEADERSHIP ROLES

Tipton Community School Corporation

Board Member | 2019 - 2020

City of Tipton Redevelopment Commission

Commission Member | 2020 - 2021

Tipton Main Street Association

Board Member | 2016 - 2019

Vice President | 2016 - 2018

President | 2019 - 2019

Tipton County Chamber of Commerce

Board Member | 2016 - 2018

President | 2017

Tipton County Council on Aging

Board Member | 2017 - 2019

PROJECTS

City of Tipton | Downtown Revitalization Plan

After successfully being awarded a grant from the Office of Rural and Community Affairs, the City of Tipton is now beginning the process of creating a Downtown Revitalization Plan. This plan will become a comprehensive plan specific to our downtown and should help communicate a vision for downtown redevelopment. I actively serve as the project manager and have been successful in getting city and county leadership together to begin discussions about downtown Tipton.

This plan was presented and approved before the City of Tipton Common Council in September of 2020.

City of Tipton | City Pool Grant for a Splash Pad

I worked with the Mayor of Tipton to complete the required steps to submit a Statement of Intent to our local Tipton County Foundation.

As the grant applicant on behalf of the City of Tipton, I coordinated our interview meeting with the Tipton County Foundation. I led discussions with the small panel about the community benefits of a local splash pad and why our community foundation should partner with the City.

The project was completed in 2019 and had a soft-opening before the end of the pool season. The full value to the community will be experienced during the 2020 pool season.

PROJECTS CONTINUED

City of Tipton | Establishing Riverfront District

A Riverfront District is an economic development tool used to help spur redevelopment in a specified area. In conjunction with completing a downtown revitalization plan, the Riverfront District was identified as a tool to help the City of Tipton satisfy an immediate need while also improving the quality of place.

I worked directly with a consulting law firm on the appropriate procedures and documentation, presented the plan in its entirety at four public meetings, and ultimately designated a Riverfront District within the City of Tipton that encompassed the downtown. From start to finish, I was able to complete this project within a four-month window.

Tipton County | Broadband

I led a team to evaluate the current condition of broadband in the City of Tipton and Tipton County. During this project, we identified the existing condition of broadband by meeting with all available providers and surveying residents. After completing the analysis of the existing conditions, we set out to identify solutions for the areas that were unserved and/or underserved. These efforts began with frank discussions with providers about the areas most in need and how a public/private partnership could be established to meet the needs.

While these conversations and strategies are still being developed, our county was able to earn a few quick wins as a result of this project. During our discussions with Smithville Fiber, we were successful in conveying the broadband need, which ultimately resulted in Smithville submitting a grant application to the State of Indiana for a Next Level Connections Grant. I was effective in collecting nearly a dozen letters of support for the project from County Commissioners, County Council, City of Tipton Mayor, County Foundation, School Corporations, and other local leaders. Also, our discussions with TDS led the company to increase investment on an active project within Tipton County. TDS agreed to increase their capital improvements by over \$750k after our discussions with their leadership team. These improvements included 7 miles of additional fiber deployment and upgraded electronics to boost broadband speeds.

While our journey to getting full broadband coverage is not complete, our initial efforts have positively impacted our community residents.

Tipton County Chamber of Commerce | Chamber Healthcare with IU Health Plans

This project began with a simple request to the President of IU Health Tipton Hospital regarding any formal healthcare offerings that our Chamber could promote to our membership. For a small, rural community, affordable healthcare is one of the largest challenges to hiring high-quality talent. Most of our small businesses are unable to afford the cost of this insurance and therefore lose out on candidates to other businesses that can afford the expense.

Our initial question morphed into a project working directly with IU Health Plans to create a new healthcare insurance offering specific for Chamber members throughout Indiana.

PROJECTS CONTINUED

The Tipton County Chamber of Commerce was the first Chamber in the state to establish this type of partnership with IU Health Plans, and is hopeful it begins to fill a void in rural Indiana for those businesses that need help attracting talent.

Tipton County Chamber of Commerce | Established Tipton County Chamber Foundation

Establishing this 501c3 enables the Tipton County Chamber of Commerce to target grant opportunities that enable progress on our strategic priorities. The establishment of the Chamber Foundation was actually executed by reorganizing an existing foundation in the community. I proposed the reorganization to the Tipton County Economic Development Foundation, which was quickly accepted given there was no material change in the organization's purpose.

Tipton County Chamber of Commerce | T-Mobile Hometown Techover Finalist

From our application to the 2021 T-Mobile Hometown Techover Contest, Tipton was selected as a top 10 finalist in this national contest. This recognition provided Tipton, IN with national recognition and a \$50,000 grant to invest in the community. Being awarded a top 10 finalist for this award not only provided the monetary award but also helped to increase the sense of pride the community possessed.

City of Tipton | WIPB Now Entering Tipton Production

I worked directly with PBS Station, WIPB, to produce Now Entering Tipton. This video was a historic movie about Tipton and Tipton County that showcased a variety of storytellers in the community. This video was broadcast on the local PBS Station and helped to promote Tipton's history and the various people and organizations that make it a great place.

This video can be found on YouTube by searching for Now Entering Tipton

Tipton County Chamber of Commerce | Mira Award Nominee for Community Impact

At the Chamber of Commerce, I have been committed to investing in leadership development to help train existing and new leaders in Tipton County. This commitment earned the Tipton County Chamber of Commerce the honor of being selected as a Mira Award Nominee for Community Impact. The Mira Awards are one of the most prestigious awards in Indiana and helped to Tipton County to gain positive attention.

Tipton Main Street Association | Establishing 501c3 Status with IRS

Worked with Sherry Landseadel to manage the process of securing a 501c3 designation for the Tipton Main Street Association. This IRS status allowed TMSA to secure grants and increase donations to the organization that have all made a significant impact on Tipton