



Mercer County: Better Together

Success through collaboration.

#MCBT

Mercer County Initiative Powers Forward with New Coordinator

Aledo, IL – September 26th, 2016 – Mercer County: Better Together has chosen a new Project Coordinator to lead the initiative's next 18-month phase. After serving as Communications Coordinator over the past four months, Kyle McEwen has been hired to the initiative's new post. A Mercer County native, McEwen is a 2009 graduate of Aledo High School and a 2013 graduate of Monmouth College with a BA in Communication Studies.

In October of 2015, Mercer County community leaders began exploring the potential for a countywide planning process. An active group of community leaders representing local government, business interests, civic organizations and nonprofit organizations met through January of 2016 to discuss, plan and organize the new initiative.

"The true project is to build a sustainable community development and economic development entity that will be here for decades to come," said McEwen. "That entity will then be the driving force behind community projects across Mercer County. I'm blessed to have the opportunity to make a positive difference in the place I love."

McEwen will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the organization, as well as communications, outreach, project management, and events/meeting facilitation. The Mercer County YMCA serves as the fiscal and administrative agent for the initiative while the Mercer Foundation for Health and University of Illinois Extension provide support and facilitation services.

Over 150 Mercer County residents participated in the civic engagement forums over the past four months, and over 90 volunteered their skills or services to the Mercer County: Better Together (MCBT) initiative. In mid-August the Looser-Flake Charitable Foundation agreed to help fund MCBT through February of 2018. Over the next 18 months MCBT will explore and analyze each community, hold engagement forums across the county, and pursue its own 501c3 status.

The initiative will also continue to build organizational structure; all while aligning feedback, plans and resources to better Mercer County. For more information on how MCBT is planning for the future of Mercer County, follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.
