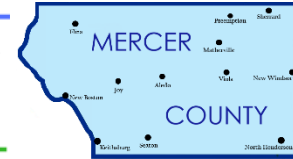




Mercer County Better Together

Connect. Promote. Educate.



MCBT Educates Illinois Leaders on Mercer County Needs, Priorities, Realities

Mercer County, IL – May 20th, 2019 – As a direct result of April’s *Mercer County Community Summit*, Mercer County Better Together (MCBT) organized the *Mercer County Legislative Visit* to educate state decision makers on the needs and priorities of Mercer County and its communities. This visit was the first of its kind, presenting state leaders with a series of countywide needs and priority projects identified by Mercer County leaders and stakeholders. During the May 9th visit, MCBT also shared the current challenges and realities faced by those who live and/or work in Mercer County.

State leaders engaged included Representative Dan Swanson, Senator Chuck Weaver, IDNR Director Colleen Callahan, DCEO Legislative Director Brad Tietz, IDOT Director of Highways Project Implementation Paul Loete and Gwen Peebles, Legislative Director for the Office of the Comptroller.

Ohio Grove Township resident and Mercer County Farm Bureau Director Jill McCrory felt the visit was an important step for Mercer County. “I learned how important it is for our legislators to hear directly from grass roots organizations,” McCrory said. “Making that face-to-face contact along with the right follow-up will be impactful for residents of Mercer County.”

“MCBT did an amazing job lining up several key players in Springfield,” said Seaton Village Clerk Virginia Tarr. “We came away with a wealth of information and contacts.”

Held on April 17th, the first *Mercer County Community Summit* gathered county, town and township leaders to develop an advocacy agenda of needs and priority projects in the areas of infrastructure (transportation, water/sewer, broadband/connectivity), business, agriculture and public health. This agenda set the basis for conversations at the *Mercer County Legislative Visit*.

MCBT also discussed with state leaders how funding opportunities at the state level connect with projects in the *Mercer County Strategic Plan*. MCBT Executive Director Kyle McEwen sees opportunity in these conversations.

“Sitting down with state decision makers and giving them perspective on our realities is a huge step in putting Mercer County ‘on the radar’ in Springfield,” McEwen said. “The counties that build relationships with state legislators and agencies are miles ahead of the rest. We look forward to making an even greater impact with these visits in the years to come.”

For more information on the *Mercer County Legislative Visit*, MCBT or the *Mercer County Strategic Plan*, contact MCBT at the information below or visit www.mcbettertogether.org.

CONTACT:

Kyle McEwen

Executive Director, Mercer County Better Together

PO Box 73 / Aledo, IL 61231

(309) 574-3123

kyle@mcbettertogether.org / www.mcbettertogether.org
