

ICEA will accept nominations for the Annual Excellence Awards through May 10th.

This is a great opportunity for your chamber to garner statewide recognition for the hard work that staff accomplished on specific new projects throughout the past year.

Chambers are divided into the following categories for judging:

0—400 members

401—700 members

701+ members

Upon reviewing, all applicants scoring above 90% will receive an Excellence Award.

Chambers may enter multiple entries.

Deadline —May 10th.

E-mail entry link with this completed form to [info@iceaonline.com](mailto:info@iceaonline.com).

Mail a non-refundable check payable to ICEA for \$25 per entry to:  
ICEA, P.O. Box 377, Hanover IN 47243.

Questions? Please call the ICEA office at 812-871-3000.



Excellence in Innovation Awards

About the award: The Annual Excellence Awards will recognize innovative new projects from your chamber this past year. Chambers may submit multiple nominations for various projects, however each nomination must showcase something new offered by your chamber during this past year. This award recognizes excellence in innovative new ideas. Complete a separate form for each entry.

E-mail your entry with this completed form to [info@iceaonline.com](mailto:info@iceaonline.com) prior to May 10th. Each entry submitted for review will be charged a \$25 non-refundable fee. Please mail this review payment payable to ICEA to: P.O. Box 377 Hanover IN 47243. An invoice will also be sent for you to pay with debit/credit card.

Chamber of Commerce Madison County

What are you submitting for? Legislator Tours

Contact: Clayton Whitson

Telephone: 7656209557

E-Mail: clayton@getlinkedmadison.com

Complete a duplicate entry for more than one entry. Please circle below the size of your chamber:

- 0—400 members
- 401— 700 members
- 701 + members

Forward e-mail with your submission attached to [info@iceaonline.com](mailto:info@iceaonline.com) no later than May 10th.



### Madison County Chamber Legislator Employer Tours

While advocacy has always been a focus and role of the Madison County Chamber of Commerce, it has become much more active over the last few years. In 2022, Nestle's Anderson plant announced they were one of two sites nationally that were being considered for a \$480 million expansion investment that would lead to the creation of nearly 100 new jobs at a starting wage of \$84,000 annually, as well as over \$3 million in new tax revenues generated for the City of Anderson. At the time, Nestle' Global had narrowed it down to Anderson, IN and a new plant being that was constructed in Arizona.

However, despite the exciting potential of this news for our community, public sentiment about Nestle' had taken a hit as they are the region's largest water consumer, had previously received tax abatements, and local citizens questioned their dedication to the community. These sentiments spilled over to the city council and the first reading of a proposed abatement was tabled.

Having previously developed a rapport with their leadership team, we reached out with one question, "How can we help?" With their legislative team based in Arlington, VA they did not have a grasp of what the local community felt and needed from their company. We had many candid conversations which culminated in the idea that the Chamber of Commerce would host conversations and tours with city leaders including 6 city council members at the Nestle' plant, with their leadership team giving us full access.

The result was a complete turn of the tide in the city council's opinion and a unanimous approval of the tax abatement, which secured the \$480 million investment in our community. Since then, the MCC has become recognized as the tip of the spear in business/government relations, with many of our businesses reaching out to us for advice and assistance in navigating the governmental process. It also gave us a very tangible example of what chamber advocacy can do.

