



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Vermillion County Board of Commissioners Receives Statewide Award**

The Indiana Association of County Commissioners (IACC) is pleased to announce that the Vermillion County Commissioners Tim Wilson, Harry Crossley and Tim Yocum, were selected IACC’s Achievement Award winners for “2017 Outstanding Team Effort for a Board of Commissioners.” The award is in recognition of their outstanding team effort for introducing a High School Student Mentoring Program.

Vermillion County has two High Schools within the county and the program alternates between the school’s monthly. The schools pick which student will attend. Once a month the Sheriff or a deputy picks the student up from their school and transports them to the Courthouse to assist in running the Commissioners meeting. The student arrives to the meeting. The Auditor provides the student an agenda and is shown how to call the meeting to order, lead the Pledge of Allegiance, and take roll call. The student sits through the meeting and can learn about the current issues affecting our county. The student assist’s in adjourning the meeting, and then are given the brochure “There when you need it: County Government” from the Association of Indiana Counties. The Auditor explains the brochure and then takes the student on a tour of all the offices within the courthouse. They stress to the students the importance of politics and their rights to choose their elected officials. This introduction to the meetings and politics may also produce a future leader in their county

The achievement award was given during the IACC’s 2017 Annual Conference, the largest gathering of County Commissioners in the state. The three-day conference included several different workshops, and breakout sessions on county related topics on “Working Together ...Achieving More” where they discussed working together in all areas of local government and focused on Community Mental Health Center Funding, Criminal Justice Reinvestment, Needle Exchange, Workforce Development, Managing Risk, Emergency Preparedness, County Veterans Service Officer, and more.

Jim McClelland who was appointed by Governor Eric Holcomb to the newly-created position of Executive Director for Drug Prevention, Treatment, and Enforcement for the State of Indiana was the Keynote speaker at this year’s conference. McClelland who also chairs the Indiana Commission to Combat Drug Abuse presented the Governor’s strategic approach to attacking the state’s drug epidemic and shared the detailed Action Steps that will guide the efforts in this area throughout the Indiana.

*The Indiana Association of County Commissioners is a nonprofit organization established to provide the best education, leadership support, and advocacy services for our County Commissioners to strengthen their influence throughout Indiana. The objectives of the Association are: to promote cooperation of the county unit with all other units of local government, (cities, towns, township, etc.) and with state and federal agencies; and to promote improvement and efficiency in the delivery of county government services. The various functions of the IACC include serving as liaison among counties, state and federal agencies, lobbying the Indiana General Assembly on behalf of County Commissioners, as well as providing technical assistance and training to county commissioners and support staff.*

***Pictured in attached photo: Indiana Association of County Commissioners 2017 President Mike Yoder, Elkhart County Commissioner and accepting the award is Tim Wilson, Harry Crossley and Tim Yocum with County Auditor Amy Tolbert.***

