



**OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR  
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**Officials Join Lt. Gov. Skillman to Celebrate Princeton  
as a Stellar Community**

PRINCETON - Lt. Governor Becky Skillman joined Princeton Mayor Bob Hurst, city and state officials and business executives, including Toyota and Onsite OHS, this afternoon to celebrate the city's selection as a Hoosier "Stellar Community".

Launched in 2011 by Lt. Governor Skillman, Stellar Communities is a collaboration between INDOT, the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority and the Indiana Finance Authority to help fund communities' strategic plans.

"The State of Indiana is only as strong as its individual communities," Lt. Governor Skillman said. "Princeton is already home to some of the state's largest business partners. With the Stellar Community program, our agencies will help ensure the city continues to attract investment for generations."

Princeton's Stellar Communities application will make the downtown area more inviting for business. The community plans to:

- Convert a parking lot into a prominent downtown park, to be named Bicentennial Plaza, for civic events
- Create a pedestrian-friendly downtown by improving streetscapes, sidewalks, alleyways and parking
- Develop senior housing cottages to give senior citizens easy access to downtown
- Restore the Princeton Theatre into a live performing arts venue
- Restore historic downtown buildings with architecturally appropriate facades on the historic Courthouse Square
- Develop downtown lofts in the historic Courthouse Square buildings

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The total proposed cost of all Princeton's Stellar Community projects is estimated at more than \$19.5 million. The State of Indiana expects over the next three years to invest more than \$20 million in the 2012 Stellar Communities, which also includes Delphi. Princeton will invest an additional \$3,675,500 in local and private funds.

Funding for the initiatives comes from multiple existing federal funds. State agencies will continue to offer grant programs to local units of government not participating in Stellar Communities.

"We are excited to be named a Stellar Community as we were so close last year. We continued to make improvements to our plan throughout the year and our hard work paid off," said Mayor Hurst. "We are creating a world-class community where businesses want to invest and people want to live."

Princeton and Delphi join Greencastle and North Vernon, which were selected as Stellar Communities for the pilot program in March of 2011. To learn more about Stellar Communities and the pilot programs' projects, visit [www.in.gov/ocra](http://www.in.gov/ocra).

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*Lt. Governor Becky Skillman oversees the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, the Office of Energy Development, the Office of Tourism Development, and the State Department of Agriculture.*

*To receive email updates from Lt. Governor Skillman, sign up at [www.in.gov/lg/2941.htm](http://www.in.gov/lg/2941.htm)*