

# MAYOR DAVE WOOD YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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## SHOE CITY CAMPAIGN - A RECORD-BREAKING SUCCESS!



We are thrilled to share that MYAC's "Shoe City" Campaign exceeded all expectations, raising an astounding \$123,000 - surpassing our original goal of \$35,000. This achievement marks the highest fundraising success among all advisory councils in the state. Each student council member played an integral role in the campaign's success. Whether through strategic committee work, media production, business presentations, or community engagement, every effort mattered. Our Giving Week events also brought the community together with creativity and purpose:



- **Monday** – Business Boost Day
- **Tuesday** – Hacienda Give Back Night
- **Wednesday** – Dress Down Day
- **Thursday** – Throwback Thursday Alumni Day
- **Friday** – Schools Giving Day

A special thank you to Lizette Ramirez, University of Notre Dame and Mayor's Youth Advisory Council Intern this year for all her hard work put into Project Shoe City. We wish her the best as she moves on after commencement this year.



[Visit our webpage](#) to see highlights, pictures and learn more about the incredible work that went into this campaign. This initiative not only raised funds but also showcased the power of our youth to create meaningful change.

## FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

This winter, the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) hosted Financial Aid Night. The session provided students and families with invaluable insight into the college financial aid process - an often intimidating yet critical component of post-secondary planning.

From breaking down FAFSA to navigating scholarship opportunities, the students gained a wealth of knowledge and were empowered to take charge of their academic futures.

## YOUTH LEGISLATIVE DAY AT THE INDIANA STATEHOUSE



MYAC had the incredible opportunity to participate in Youth Legislative Day, where members traveled to the Indiana Statehouse to meet with state legislators, network with fellow youth councils, and engage directly in the policymaking process.

Led by Mayor Wood, President of AIM (Accelerate Indiana Municipalities), students were also honored with the rare opportunity to meet Governor Mike Braun. It was a powerful and inspiring experience, giving young people a firsthand look at how laws are shaped - and how their voices matter in shaping them.

To dive deeper into AIM and the importance of youth involvement in government, we spoke with Erin Jamison-Koenig, Communications Director for AIM.

### Here's what she had to say:

**Q:** What is your name and role?

**A:** My name is Erin Jamison-Koenig, and I serve as the Communications Director at AIM.

**Q:** Who do you work for?

**A:** I work for AIM – Accelerate Indiana Municipalities, the official voice of Indiana's cities and towns.

**Q:** What does AIM do?

**A:** AIM represents municipal interests at the Statehouse and supports local governments year-round through professional development, technical assistance, and opportunities for collaboration and innovation.

**Q:** What do you do in your role?

**A:** I help share the stories of Indiana's cities and towns by highlighting the work of local leaders to improve the quality of life. I manage AIM's website, produce marketing and podcasts, and design materials for our events. My job is all about connecting municipal leaders with the resources and best practices they need to strengthen their communities.

**Q:** What advice do you have for young people interested in government or public service?

**A:** Try anything you think you might enjoy and explore what interests you, even if it's a sharp turn from where you are now.



## INAUGURAL MYAC AWARDS NIGHT

To end our amazing year, the MYAC celebrated with its first-ever MYAC Awards Night, an event to honor the achievements and growth of our council members.

Former alumna Hannah (Curtis) Mullett, Coordinator of Football Operations, University of Notre Dame, and former alumnus Justin Fisher, Member of University of Notre Dame Football Team #32 spoke to the MYAC about how the Mayor's Youth Council has impacted their lives.

First-year members were invited to apply for their second year. Second-year members were awarded certificates recognizing their service and leadership.

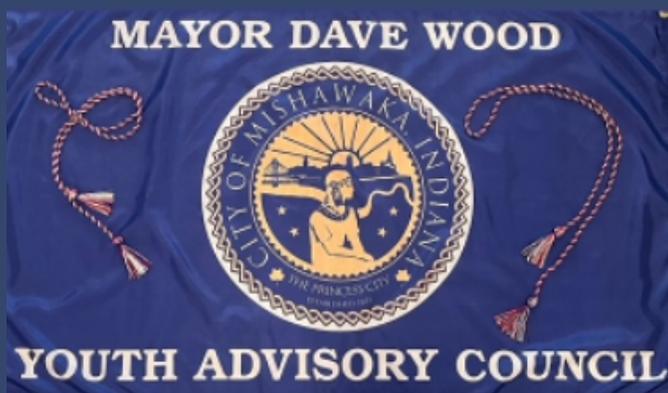
Graduating seniors received cords to commemorate their commitment to public service and youth leadership.

Congratulations to our graduating seniors:

- Emily Archambeault, Marian High School (Salutatorian)
- Liam Bauschke, Mishawaka High School (Salutatorian)
- Ty Caruso, Marian High School
- Lydia Choi, Marian High School
- Joel Cocquyt, Penn High School
- Margaret Coppens-Clark, Mishawaka High School (Salutatorian)
- Sophia Garatoni, Marian High School
- Kate Gradeless, Mishawaka High School (Valedictorian)
- Grace Henry, Marian High School
- Angie Lin, Penn High School
- Brianna Marable, Marian High School
- Hugh Michel, Marian High School
- JoJo Murphy, Marian High School
- Sheridan Pellico, Marian High School
- Nishorgo Proshun, Penn High School
- Nicholas Quiet, Marian High School
- Arianna Rice, Penn High School
- Lydia Shely, Penn High School
- Reagan Sutherland, Marian High School
- Audrey Wandling, Mishawaka High School (Valedictorian)

Two special honors were also awarded:

- The Mayor's Award: Josephine Phillips
- The All-Around Mayor's Award: Margaret Coppens-Clark



### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS!

You are leaders, change-makers, and visionaries. We cannot wait to see the impact you continue to make in your communities and beyond.

## MYAC - WINTER SKATE NIGHT @ IRONWORKS PLAZA

To celebrate the winter season and foster connection within our community, the Mayor hosted its annual Winter Skate Night at Ironworks Plaza. MYAC students and their families came together for an evening of music, laughter, and ice skating under the stars. Events like these remind us how vital community-building is to our city's strength and spirit. Thank you to all who joined us and made the night so special!

## STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

On April 14th, 2025, members of MYAC were recognized at the State of the City Address by Mayor Wood for their outstanding efforts and contributions throughout the year. The Mayor commended their dedication, creativity, and passion for service - qualities that continue to shape our city's future for the better. Thank you, Mayor Wood, for all that you do!

## THANK YOU FOR AN INCREDIBLE YEAR

From new events to historic milestones, the 2024–2025 year was one of the most memorable. MYAC remains committed to empowering youth voices, fostering civic engagement, and building a better tomorrow - one initiative at a time.

Stay connected with us by visiting our webpage at <https://mishawaka.in.gov/government/elected-appointed-officials/mayor/mayors-youth-advisory-council/> and following us on social media.

Here's to another year of making a difference.



mayorsyouthadvisorymishawaka



Mishawaka Mayor Dave Wood Youth Council

*Thank you to Marian, Mishawaka and Penn for their ongoing support.*