

THE LEADING EDGE

Monthly Newsletter

LJC ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Bonnie Pribush




Bonnie Pribush, Founder of Leadership Johnson County, grew up in Salisbury, Maryland. She attended the University of Delaware where she received her bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics. She originally thought she wanted to be a research mathematician, but thanks to being a graduate assistant while getting her master's degree, she discovered her love for teaching. After earning her degrees, she taught at several schools before she met and married her husband. Bonnie moved to Indiana because her husband was a professor at Butler University. She then went on to earn a master's degree in computer science from IUPUI.

She found a home at Franklin College when she was hired as a professor of mathematics and computer science. When asked what she was most proud of in life her answer was "the students I taught at Franklin College and Leadership Johnson County, and the way they are living their lives now. And I don't take credit for that, but they are my legacy." Bonnie says accepting a job at Franklin College was the perfect choice for her because "being at a liberal arts school allows us, as professors, many opportunities to think outside the box." She was then asked to be the acting vice president of academic affairs for two years. During this time, the college had received a major grant from the Lilly Endowment to start a leadership program. Because Bonnie helped the college president at the time to write the grant, he asked her to run the leadership program that became Leadership Johnson County. One of the best things Bonnie thinks she has done at the college is hire people who inspire people, including Tandy Shuck. "She has taken Leadership Johnson County to heights that I could not have imagined. So, I am just incredibly proud of how creative she has been and how she has grown the program in so many directions and set it up to help even more people." The last part of her career was dedicated to running the program before she retired in 2014 saying "I learned more from so many different people; more than I ever taught. I was the lead learner. Having a network is so valuable. There are so many large and small ways that knowing people in the county and having connections with them allows me and others to do more for the community."

Bonnie and her husband have been citizens of Johnson County for over 30 years now, and live in White River Township just north of Center Grove schools. She says that "we love living in Johnson County. It is the best place to live because you have the small town feel, and I am very connected to the people at Franklin College." The Pribushes are so proud of their children as well as their two daughters-in-law and their grown grandson. Their oldest son went to the Air Force Academy, flew A10 as a US Air Force pilot, and did numerous tours in Afghanistan and one in Iraq. He then retired, but still flies for the Air Force Reserve. Their youngest son went to Franklin College, lives in New Palestine, and got married last year. Their middle son unfortunately passed away in high school due to a car accident. "It was very devastating, but it certainly teaches you to be empathetic and make the most of every day," says Bonnie who graciously shares her heartfelt wisdom.

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In retirement, Bonnie is involved in several clubs and organizations. She is on the board for the International Women of Indiana, an organization that offers several interest groups and educational workshops . In 2021, Bonnie was the vice president of the Indianapolis Women's Club. This year, she is on a committee for the literary society which is 147 years old. She is in a local book club and a local movie club. She loves when LJC calls her to do a program once or twice a year on topics such as Civil Civic Discourse or teaching an overview of the history of leadership studies.

One of her greatest joys is meeting LJC alumni for coffee or lunch. She says she would go anywhere in central Indiana and buy her own lunch with anyone who wants to sit down and talk with her! Some of her hobbies include knitting and embroidery, reading, and traveling. She and her husband have been to over 30 countries and are hoping to get back to Europe and visit Portugal for the first time this summer after being deprived of traveling for the past couple of pandemic years. Her advice is: "Don't wait! Travel a lot, you never know what is going to happen. Seize every opportunity. There is nothing more valuable than memories."

Bonnie's passion project during retirement has been in giving back to her community and "helping those who are less fortunate." For her, that comes in the form of several years of volunteering with Bridges Alliance of Johnson County, a poverty alleviation nonprofit that focuses on breaking systemic barriers of poverty that create inequalities in our community, such as the lack of affordable housing. For more information on how you can get involved and support this cause visit <https://bridgesalliancejc.org>.

Written by Colleen Kincaid, LJC Intern

LJC ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Don Cummings




Don Cummings grew up in Indianapolis on the northwest side, just about a mile north of the Speedway. He attended Northwest High School. Don says that he always knew when it was springtime when he could hear cars going around the track as he walked home from school. In 1970, Don graduated high school and went to Purdue University to earn a degree in physics.

After college, he began teaching high school physics in Plainfield. He then shifted professions and had a 45-year industrial career; 40 of those at Endress+Hauser. The first five years of his industrial career were spent in various locations including Tennessee and North Carolina. Don had 14 different positions during his time with Endress+Hauser. The last job Don had within the company was in engineering education and was the one he says he enjoyed most and thinks matched the best with his passions. This included meeting with and hiring engineering grads and working with them through a development program as well as helping engineering schools with their curriculums. This meant participating on advisory boards along with philanthropy work.

Don retired two-and-a-half years ago and has lived in Greenwood for 35 years. He has two children. His daughter and her husband are both employed at Endress+Hauser and live in the Center Grove area with their two kids. His son lives in the Poland, Indiana area with his wife where they are the resident caretakers of a lakeside cabin resort. Don met his wife about the time he graduated from LJC in 2009, and they have been married for three years.

Don was civically engaged in the county before becoming a member of LJC in 2009, but he credits the program for “putting [my civic engagement] on steroids! I felt like my passions and skill sets expanded and I was working on so many projects at once.” The signature program has three main elements according to Don, “there’s the teaching you to lead, there’s the teaching you about the community, and there’s the service project. The first part turned me from a manager to a leader and taught me to listen better. I think that being exposed to so many organizations and people in the county by LJC, anything I felt like I wanted to do and find out about, there was a network that allowed me to be successful.”

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Don's LJC project group had the idea to create a tourism bureau for the county. Their project was called 'Journey Johnson County'. Don says, "The idea was first to show local elected leaders and other officials that we had some tourism assets worth promoting." His group started collecting information about what citizens of the county might want to get off the couch for and what the county could be doing more to highlight. "We naively thought that within 6 months the county was going to pass a hotel tax and fund tourism. Well, it took 9 years." It was a volunteer effort as they took to social media to promote the project and the county. Eventually the county passed a hotel tax, which in the state of Indiana is what funds tourism promotion. After focus groups, marketing work, and rebranding, Festival County was officially born. Don was on the board of the tourism agency and now still works occasionally for the director in retirement. Don says that the community service project aspect of his time with LJC was the most influential on his civic character moving forward and how he got along with people from all different backgrounds and perspectives.

In retirement, Don is active in a multitude of hobbies, including feeding his passions by continuing to be on advisory boards for three different colleges. He loves taking care of his grandkids, meeting for lunch with former co-workers or with civic colleagues to talk through projects for the county. Back in 2009 during the time where Don was getting involved more with the community, he took up blues harmonica lessons and has very much enjoyed getting to play with many bands over the years. Before retirement and COVID-19, Don used to do a lot of bicycling, kayaking and hiking that he would like to get back into. He and his wife love to camp and have traveled around in their tiny camp trailer for the past 6 years and have enjoyed the locations it has brought them to. "Retirement is a peaceful existence and every once in a while, someone will bring a project my way and I'll think, 'yeah, I'd like to help with that.'" Another passion of Don's is creative writing. He published a couple short stories in the early 2000s and is working on getting back into writing, whether it be for writing competitions or himself.

One of Don's biggest accomplishments is furthering students' education, and he has said that he feels very lucky and proud of what he has accomplished for the schools of Indiana. He says that his biggest passion is community development and creating a sense of place. Don's advice for future leaders is "use your network to connect people. When you can see that two people need each other and they don't even know it yet, it is your role to get them together. Drop pebbles of goodness where you can and see where the ripples will go. Nobody accomplishes anything alone."

He wants to make sure to highlight Festival Country and the work that they do. His message is "if you haven't yet dived in to see what they are all about, go to the visitor's center, meet the folks there, pick up a visitor's guide, and then YOU become an ambassador of the county as you talk to people who may not be aware of the great things Johnson County has to offer." Visit Festival Country for more information! <https://www.festivalcountryindiana.com>.

Written by Colleen Kincaid, LJC Intern



2022 Wrap-Up

A Note from Tandy

This will be the staff's last week in the office for the 2021-2022 year and what a year it has been! Despite the continued challenges of the pandemic, we finished the year with so much to celebrate. I decided my comments for the May newsletter would count out the top 22 things we have to celebrate.

22) We had **954** people attend LJC Alumni Events this year.

21) Our alumni engagement rate was **54%**. This is the highest alumni engagement rate in the state according to the Indiana Leadership Association and we know that is because our alumni members rock!

20) We had **13 classes** that had an engagement rate of **over 50%**! Thank you to each person who stayed engaged with LJC this year. You are the reason we do what we do!

19) We had one class with **83% engagement** this year. Please congratulate the Class of 2021!

18) The LJC staff members help train student interns each year. This year we had five interns – three were college students and two were high school students. We think the following students are worth celebrating: **Amelia Gonzales, Colleen Kincaid, Josie Lyons, Emily Peters, and Connor Waddick.**

17) Our Mix It Up Event was the second most successful fundraising event in LJC history. We are grateful for the **340** people in attendance. We were able to raise a profit of **\$72,455** at our Mix It Up Event. Save the date of March 3, 2023 for next year's event.

16) Our **450 donors** are definitely worth celebrating. Thank you to everyone that made a contribution to LJC this year.


15) We surpassed our fundraising goal by over \$6,000 and that is worth a little happy dance for sure! We had **32 Leadership Champions** who gave at the \$3,000 level or higher. We also had **29 LJC Select Workshop Sponsors** that make it possible for us to keep training leaders!

14) We had 6 classes that had over 50% of their class members make a donation to LJC this year. This is the highest in our history.

13) The class winning the "Best Class Ever" title, with a giving percentage of **86%**, was the **Class of 2022!** Please congratulate them when you see them!

12) We slated **44 Youth Leadership Academy participants** as part of the YLA Class of 2023.

11) In April, we celebrated **40 YLA graduates**. They made us proud with their community project and their presentations at their graduation celebration.



10) We slated another wonderful group for the LJC Signature Class of 2023! Thank you to everyone that helped us recruit.

9) May added **37 more Signature Program alumni**. It was wonderful to see them graduate and hear about their wonderful projects.

8) Our top recruiters for the Signature Program were **Angela DeVoss and Melody Schulz**! Our top recruiters for Select Workshops were **Sabrina Hickey and Jobea Trefny**!

7) We had over **160 people** at the All Aboard Volunteer and Board Fair. We also had two more community projects come from that event, with the overall total of **11 projects** resulting from the All Aboard Fair since its inception.

6) We added Let's Talk Leadership this year with **14 episodes**. Brad Coy was a wonderful host for this new initiative and we are grateful to CenterPoint Energy for underwriting it.

5) We had **161 participants** in our Lunch and Learn virtual sessions this year.

4) We facilitated **11 Leadership To Your Door sessions** with 288 participants.

3) Overall, we had **837 total participants** in our Select Workshops.

2) We have an amazing **18 members on our LJC Board of Trustees**. We had over **150 people** volunteer for our committees, as Class Liaisons, as Go Ahead Team members, or just general volunteers. You are all incredible!

1) We fully realize we are as successful as we are because of each one of you. Thank you for everything you do to help LJC be the premiere leadership organization it is! The thing we celebrate the most is **YOU!!!**

**Thank
you!**

SIGNATURE PROGRAM

Closing Retreat



THANK YOU to our program
day and project sponsors:



SIGNATURE PROGRAM

Graduation





SIGNATURE PROGRAM

Class of 2022

Cathy Armour

Better Business Bureau
Serving Central Indiana

Lucy Bartley

Modern Woodmen of
America

Janeen Bostick

The Phoenix Group

Thomas Brodbeck

Found Search Marketing

Craig Bruns

Greenwood Community
Schools

Christina Choban

Waddell & Reed

Tiffany Craft

NSK Corporation

SaraBeth Drybread

Town of Edinburgh

Ashley Ferrell

Greenwood Library Foundation

Darci Fosnot

Surface Experts of Central Indiana

Lorrie Garrigus

Community Volunteer

Caroline Griesemer

Johnson Heating Cooling
Plumbing

Justin Griggs

Town of Bargersville

Maggie Hagan

10 Pins Franklin

Jamie Jo Hampton

Clark-Pleasant Community
School Corporation

Jenothy Irvine

Grace United Methodist
Church

Missy Jones

City of Franklin Mayor's
Office

Donna Jones

Greenwood Education Foundation

Amy Key

JCREMC

Chris Kolderup

Johnson County Public
Library

Adam LaFlower

Self-Employed
(partnered with Keller
Williams)

Eric Lemmel

Endress+Hauser

Regan Loeffler

Lake City Bank

Audri McGrane

Compass Realty

Karen Metzger

F45 Center Grove/NCAA

Amy Mocas

Berkshire Hathaway
Home Services Indiana Realty

Blythe Potter

Bargersville Wellness

Michael Robinson

Endress+Hauser

Jhennifer Sanchez

bo-mar Industries

Haedyn Scgalski

Adult & Child

Olivia Schoentrup

Schoentrup Farms

Sheila Short

Indiana Realty Pros, Inc.

Lindsey Turner

Mutual Savings Bank

Jeremy VanAndel

Franklin College

Karen Wade

Retired from Eli Lilly & Co

Cyndi Wesley

NSK Precision America

Amanda Wilkerson

Ivy Tech Community College

Youth Leadership Academy

Graduation



Youth Leadership Academy

Class of 2022

Aalok Adhikari

Center Grove High School

Abigail Henderson

Franklin Community High School

Sofia Reutebuch

Roncalli High School

Josie Albright

Franklin Community High School

Hannah Hoggatt

Whiteland High School

Jack Rittenhouse

Roncalli High School

Audrey Balint

Roncalli High School

Lauren Holcroft

Franklin Community High School

Annalia Sanchez

Center Grove High School

Ellie Bandy

Greenwood Christian Academy

Christian Jasinski

Northpoint Homeschool Classes

Isabelle Schmitz

Center Grove High School

Ryan Beach

Center Grove High School

Sarah Jolley

Greenwood Christian Academy

Emilee Scott

Indian Creek High School

Zach Brodnik

Whiteland High School

Andrew Jones

Greenwood High School

Caleb Shaw

Greenwood High School

Elizabeth Carlyle

Greenwood High School

Kylie Lemmon

Indian Creek High School

Olivia Shingleton

Greenwood Christian Academy

Nicholas Detling

Edinburgh High School

Daniel Mangan

Center Grove High School

Kinley Shoemaker

Franklin Community High School

Amelia Edens

Whiteland High School

Addison Marshall

Franklin Community High School

Sarah Stewart

Home School

Evelynn Eldridge

Greenwood Christian Academy

Paxton Marshall

Indian Creek High School

Bennett Strain

Center Grove High School

Samuel Fenner

Greenwood High School

Joseph McGuinness

Franklin Community High School

Abaigeal Wiggam

Whiteland High School

Reid Geisler

Franklin Community High School

Urvi Parihar

Center Grove High School

Emma Williams

Franklin Community High School

Morgan Harvey

Franklin Community High School

Rudy Perez

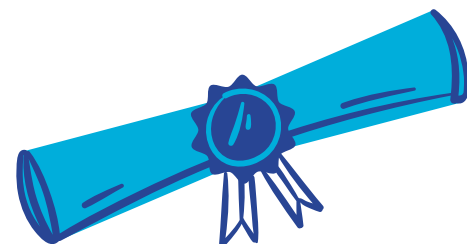
Edinburgh High School

Elijah Hawkins

Whiteland High School

Olivia Perry

Indian Creek High School



LJC ALUMNI *News*



Tricia Bechman ('04) has joined Mutual Savings Bank as the Director of Marketing and Advertising. Congrats, Tricia!

Chris Rynerson ('18) started a new job and is now an Insurance Producer with Leugers Insurance Group. Congrats, Chris!

Tandy Shuck ('01) received the Hometown Hero award from Modern Woodman, which honors an individual or group for their outstanding service to the community. Well deserved, Tandy!



Brooke Weddle ('09) recently started a new job as Associate Director, Legal Operations at Eli Lilly and Company. Congrats, Brooke!

Let's Be Social!

Follow Leadership Johnson
County for LJC news,
community events, and more!



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Leadership Johnson County at
Franklin College

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#LeadershipJohnsonCounty



2021 | 2022

Leadership Champions

