

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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JEFFERY SMALLWOOD NAMED  
2025 HENDRICKS COUNTY LEADER OF THE YEAR;  
SCOTT WYNDHAM & JAY DESAI ALSO HONORED

If you've ever walked, jogged, or biked along Hendricks County's beautiful B&O Trail, you've enjoyed the results of decades of determined advocacy by Jeffery Smallwood. Calling Smallwood a trailblazer is no exaggeration, because he has spent the last three decades transforming an abandoned railroad line into an extraordinary trail that will soon connect downtown Indianapolis with communities in Putnam County. That commitment to the health of the community led to his recognition as the newest Hendricks County Leader of the Year.

A native of Brownstown and holder of multiple degrees from Indiana University, including a doctorate in Pharmacology, Smallwood performed research for Eli Lilly for 36 years and taught dental and respiratory therapy students at IUPUI as an adjunct associate professor. The high school athlete and fitness enthusiast with several marathons and triathlons to his credit joined the B&O Trail Association in 1994. He helped guide the organization through legal battles, land-use challenges, and funding issues and has served as its president since 2019.

Smallwood has also coached youth athletics and started and subsequently directed the orchestra at Plainfield Christian Church for 26 years. He and Marijane have two children and five grandchildren, and currently reside in Avon.

LHC also recognized Scott Wyndham as the recipient of the Suzanne Whicker Distinguished Service Award. As Superintendent of the Avon Community School Corporation since 2020, he is responsible for leading the district's 1,600 employees in educating nearly 11,000 students. Wyndham's professional career began in special education, and his dedication to meeting the needs of every student is reflected in his leadership style. He is also deeply involved in community organizations, including serving as a mentor for Spark Youth Leadership Hendricks County.

Finally, Avon High School junior Jay Desai was recognized as the Youth Leader of the Year. Currently at the top of his class, Desai received perfect scores on both the PSAT and SAT examinations and has participated in research projects at Eli Lilly and the IU School of Medicine. Beyond his classroom work, Desai has a lengthy resume of volunteer leadership roles in school and the community, including participation in the Spark Youth Leadership Hendricks County program. He intends to study neuroscience and health policy in college.

Since 1993, Leadership Hendricks County has given citizens the background and inside information they need to take on effective leadership roles in the Hendricks County community. Each program participant has completed a Team Capstone project to address a current community need. Leadership Hendricks County, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to seek, prepare, involve and sustain leaders from diverse backgrounds to address community and countywide changes. For information, call 317-718-6075 or visit [www.LeadershipHendricksCounty.org](http://www.LeadershipHendricksCounty.org).