

Clearly Kosciusko Podcast Series

A PODCAST THAT CELEBRATES WHAT IS UNIQUE, WHAT IS SPECIAL, WHAT IS...CLEARLY KOSCIUSKO

Powered and produced by KEDCO in partnership with J.C. Innovations LLC.

KEDCO is a member of [Clearly Kosciusko](#).

Episode 17: Anna Haldewang—a Syracuse, IN native and entrepreneur helping almond growers

- Anna Haldewang is a native of Syracuse--home of [Lake Wawasee](#)--in Kosciusko County.
- Although she grew up and resides in Kosciusko County now, Anna spent time in Savannah, Georgia during her college years and even spent some time in Fort Lauderdale for a couple years in the yachting industry.
- While studying industrial design/product design in Savannah, Anna was tasked with designing a self-sufficient object that could stimulate the growth of plants. That's when Anna began exploring pollination, and designed a pollinating drone.
- After completing the design she was approached by CNN for a highlight, and Forbes to participate in the Forbes AgTech Summit. Anna knew she was on to something when she journeyed to California for the Summit with her makeshift prototype she'd put together--and people loved it. They were eager for the product release.
- Anna returned home to pursue her business, Plan Bee. While partnering with [Purdue Foundry](#) in doing market research, she identified her target markets--almond growers/orchards in California and Australia. She learned about challenges facing almond growers with rotten almonds or "Mummies" and the Navel Orangeworms that hibernate in the almonds, causing damage to the next crop. [InsightTRAC](#) is born. InsightTRAC is a robotic "Mummy" removal system. Anna has completed some beta trials with the prototype, and plans to go to market with the product later this year.
- When asked why Anna is still here and not living on the west coast she said her family lives here, she loves the area, the lakes and the small-town feel. She said, "As an entrepreneur here, everyone wants to help you, not just in Kosciusko County but at the State level there's a lot of support for entrepreneurs."
- Anna recommends checking out local spots: [Village at Winona](#), [Port Winona Wine + Market](#), [110 Craft Meatery](#), and [Anthology Whiskey](#).
- Are you new to the area? Check out KEDCO's [Outside the Fishbowl](#) monthly meetup!

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Episode 18: David Grant—from Detroit to Grace College, and intentional connection in the community

- David Grant grew up in Michigan, and choose to make the move after high school to Winona Lake to attend [Grace College](#), where he studied music, ministry & religious studies.
- Although David didn't necessarily have plans to stay in the area, during his time at Grace he met is now wife, and they chose to stay. He and his wife currently reside in Warsaw.
- David serves as a digital marketing specialist at [Creative Technology Solutions](#), a technology company uniquely equipped to manage IT needs of the long-term care industry. Creative Technology Solutions is located on the second floor above the [Boathouse Restaurant](#) in the [Village at Winona](#).
- When asked what has kept David in the area he said finding your home and your people makes all the difference. David enjoys playing guitar and co-leading worship with his wife at their local church. And he and his wife enjoy working out and connecting with others as [CrossFit Haymaker Gym](#). David also mentioned [One Warsaw](#), and emphasized the opportunities to get connected with people if you choose to.
- Being centrally located in Warsaw has been a huge asset for business for Creative Technology Solutions.
- If you're looking for a local spot to eat, David highly recommends [Biryani Kitchen](#) and [Rua](#).
- Well known and hidden gems mentioned: [Village at Winona](#), great retreat spaces in the community, [The Garden at Cerulean](#) and [The Barbee Hotel & Restaurant](#).

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Episode 19: Local entrepreneur Marlene Betances, and her journey from Massachusetts to her Hoosier home

- Moving to the Hoosier State was a change of pace for Marlene Betances. Marlene is a New York City native, but also spent some time in rural New York during her college years at Cornell University. Marlene said her time at Cornell in Ithaca, NY gave her a bit of flavor for rural living— not knowing she'd live in Indiana years later.
- Marlene and her family later lived in Massachusetts while she worked as a quality engineer for Johnson & Johnson, which is when the opportunity to journey to Warsaw, Indiana was presented to her. After Johnson & Johnson acquired [DePuy](#), Marlene was offered a job opportunity in Warsaw.
- Marlene said at the time, the leadership [Johnson & Johnson] team encouraged her to consider it, and reminded her that the move didn't have to be permanent. But 20 years later, Marlene and her family are still living and loving life in Warsaw. Marlene and her husband will celebrate their 30th anniversary this summer.
- After planting roots in Kosciusko County, Marlene started a new chapter as co-founder and CEO of medical device operations support company, [EnPak, LLC](#). The Warsaw-based company is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.
- As a local entrepreneur, Marlene praised the support she's received and continues to receive from local mentors, [KEDCO](#), [SCORE](#), [Kosciusko Chamber of Commerce](#) and [OrthoWorx](#).
- "I prize our sense of community. If you haven't experienced that it's because you haven't plugged in," said Marlene.
- Marlene said what makes her proud of being here is that community leaders and people aren't complacent, we're always trying to improve. For being a small town, she appreciates offerings like being able to pick up Spanish and Indian groceries from local stores, the variety and quality of local restaurants, and offerings the local education system continues to provide, expand and improve.

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Episode 20: Merri Bottorff & Robin Fosnaugh and the magic of the library

- Robin Fosnaugh is a native of Warsaw and serves as administrative assistant at [Warsaw Community Public Library \(WCPL\)](#). Although Robin and her family ventured to South Carolina for a time, they moved back to Warsaw because they knew it was *home*.
- Merri Bottorff a library advocate and volunteer of [Friends of the Library](#), is originally from nearby Plymouth, Indiana. Merri also lived part of her life in the South, but planted roots in Warsaw nearly 20 years ago.
- WCPL has served the community for more than 100 years, but the way the library serves patrons today looks much different. Of course WCPL is still filled from wall-to-wall with books, but there's so much more! From online resources, book sales, games, 3D printing, and even virtual reality experiences, the library has unique offerings for patrons of all ages. [Learn more.](#)
- Some favorite spots in the community recommended by Merri and Robin: [Buffalo Street Emporium and Books](#), [Kelainey's Ice Cream and Sandwich Shop](#), [The Village at Winona](#), and [Warsaw Cut Glass](#).
- Other hidden gems Jody recommends--literally out in the fields--[Tippy Creek Winery](#) and [HopLore Brewing](#) in Leesburg.
- If you live in a township that's currently not being served by the library, they encourage you to have a friendly conversation with your local township trustee.
- Check out [WCPL](#) and [WCPL's Friends of the Library](#) on Facebook. Robin and Merri hope to see your smiling face at the library!

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