Jeff Walker

Community Vitality Specialist

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Jeff Walker is the Community Vitality Specialist for the Purdue Extension Community Development Program. Located in Vernon, Indiana, he collaborates statewide with community stakeholders, partners, local Extension professionals, and campus Extension specialists to promote and coordinate the Community Vitality Program funded by the Downing Endowment for Community Vitality. Communities can apply to participate in this program yearly.

The winner of the 2024 Community Spirit Award, presented to one individually yearly by the Management and Professional Staff Advisory Committee and Campus Support Staff Advisory Committee at Purdue University, Jeff is passionate about seeing communities thrive. “I don’t think we can do community work alone, ever. It’s something that requires you to be a team player and come together with others to say, ‘This is something we want for our community.’”

Jeff is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and brings experience in public health, community nutrition, project management, and local elected office to the role. He received his BS in Hospitality Management & Dietetics and BA in International Affairs from Western Kentucky University and graduated with an MPH in Nutrition and Dietetics from the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health.