

April 29, 2015**NEWS RELEASE:** For immediate release**TOPIC:** Jasper Team Wins \$50,000 in *America's Best Communities* First Round**CONTACT:** Mayor Terry Seitz – 812.482.4255 or mayorseitz@ci.jasper.in.usDarla Blazey – 812.482.4255 or dblazey@ci.jasper.in.us

(Jasper, Indiana) - Jasper can proclaim to be among the Top 50 of America's Best Communities today. A team of community leaders entered Jasper in the America's Best Communities contest, sponsored by Frontier Communications, DISH Network, CoBank and the Weather Channel. Today, notification has been received Jasper has been selected as one of the quarter finalists and will receive a \$50,000 award.

The promotion provides a total of \$10 million in prize money and support for growth and revitalization plans in small towns and cities across 27 states served by Frontier. More than 135 communities applied for the designation.

The \$50,000 award is for communities to develop their plans and proposals through the summer then submit them September 2015. Up to 15 semifinalists will be selected in November 2015 and will attend an America's Best Communities summit in January 2016 to present their proposals. After the presentations, eight finalists will be selected, and each will be awarded \$100,000 to implement their plans. The top three contestants will be awarded a total of \$6 million in grand prizes in October 2017.

Mayor Terry Seitz believes Jasper's ABC Team is the key to advancing, "We have assembled a talented group with significant community involvement and there is no doubt we will be a viable competitor for the top prize as we go forward."

The Jasper team includes members from the City Office of Community Development and Planning, Redevelop Old Jasper Action Coalition (ROJAC), Jasper Chamber of Commerce, Dubois Strong, Dubois County Community Foundation, and Vincennes University Jasper Campus. Five area businesses have also agreed to lend their support to the effort. They are: Kimball International, Finishing Touches, Matrix Integration, Jasper Engines & Transmissions and German American.

