

**Team Purpose:** Design and Develop the best and most feasible economic development model/strategy for Coal City, and to create a business plan to promote economic development in small towns.

**Objectives:**

- Gather information that will lead to the creation of an effective plan.
- Study models and components of Sustainable Economic Development focusing on small towns and rural areas
- Study the demographics, human systems, existing industry systems, bio-physical systems, government and social policy systems and the existing industry clusters
- Understand community, local, and regional assets and talent pool, town vision, mission and economic development plans

**Background:**Coal city is a small town in Illinois that has partnered with IIT. Current population is 5,152 people and has been steadily increasing. Coal City is located just south of I-80 along the I-55 corridor and less than an hour from Bolingbrook and Oakbrook. Along the northern border of Coal city, are adjoining lakes and abandoned coal mines. Small town atmosphere is conducive to community interaction and pride. Several buildings important to the village's history include: Castle Hall, Opera House, Old Village Hall, Fire Bell, and the Old Store. The village comes together for several events each year, including Oktoberfest, where the downtown area shuts down and the streets are overcome with vendors, people, and businesses celebrating together.



# COAL CITY

**IPRO 350** Developing Models for Sustainable Entrepreneurial Economic Development in Illinois Small Towns

**Team Member Roster:**

|                      |                 |                 |                 |                |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Ricardo Arzu         | Daniel Caven    | Bharat Lavania  | Guilherme Nunes | Anthony Scorzo |
| Denzel Avant         | Andy Daniel     | Emmanuel Marcha | Ana Popa        | Nader Tadros   |
| Aleksandar Bogoevski | Courtney Fisher | Khadija Mouddou | Dot Quach       | David Winkin   |

**Advisor:** Dr. Nasrin Khalili