



Following the Road to



One popular online dictionary defines lifelong learning as the continuing development of knowledge and skills that people experience after formal education and throughout their lives.

The “after formal education” phrase is troubling. Is it not impossible to separate the critical K-12 and higher education components? No matter the terminology, we should be able to agree on the importance of preparing all people with the skills and training required to succeed in the workplace (Chamber President Kevin Brinegar has more in his message on Page 2).

BizVoice® has featured numerous articles over the past 11 years on varying aspects of K-12, higher education and workforce development. There have been some improvements, but one could easily question if they have taken place at a rate fast enough to ensure our global competitiveness. The path to future advances is long and challenging, but must be traveled.

The pages that follow include some of those challenges, but also a few of the individual efforts and programs that are helping make that journey just a little easier. One can't help but be enthused by the possibilities new Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Bennett (Page 16) brings to his role, but that same person will be sobered by the enormity of the work that must take place (Pages 46 and 48) to assist our existing workers.

We can only hope that today's young people do not find themselves in a similar uncomfortable, uncompetitive position during their adult years. Their chances of avoiding that dilemma improve greatly with a world-class formal education. That education, however, does not guarantee future success in an evolving economy – thus, the importance of adult training and development programs.

Add it all up and you have lifelong learning.



Workforce Excellence

