

# ADDING TO THE MOMENTUM

## Indiana Vision 2025 Forums Focus on Progress

INDIANA VISION

2025

A PLAN FOR HOOSIER PROSPERITY

### GOALS

#### DRIVER 1: OUTSTANDING TALENT

- Increase the proficiency of Indiana students in math, science and reading to “Top 5” status internationally.
- Increase to 90% the proportion of Indiana students who graduate from high school ready for college and/or career training.
- Eliminate the educational achievement gaps at all levels, from pre-school through college, for disadvantaged populations.
- Increase to 60% the proportion of Indiana residents with high quality postsecondary credentials.
- Increase the proportion of Indiana residents with bachelor’s degrees or higher to “Top 10” status internationally.
- Increase the proportion of Indiana residents with postsecondary credentials in STEM-related fields to “Top 5” status internationally.
- Develop, implement and fully fund a comprehensive plan for addressing the skills shortages of adult and incumbent workers who lack minimum basic skills.

It’s implicit in the name – *Indiana Vision 2025* – and in the efforts to see it become reality. But the undeniable fact that the long-range economic development action plan is a true state initiative was possibly never more evident than during the first two weeks of December.

In visiting six cities in eight business days (covering approximately 1,300 miles) and meeting with more than 350 business, education, government and community leaders, the Indiana Chamber:

- Updated participants on progress achieved on some of the 33 goals in the four pillar areas since the plan was introduced in early 2012
- Continued the focus on regional priorities, bringing leaders together to work on overcoming their challenges and leveraging their assets
- Listened and learned

As communicated at each stop, the *Indiana Vision 2025* mission will not be achieved without all regions of the state operating at very high levels. The strategy is simple: In addition to the Indiana Chamber’s legislative advocacy and other programs, results at the local and regional levels will yield progress that is greater than the sum of the individual parts.

Successful regional forums (made possible by the sponsorship of Chase) don’t take place without outstanding regional partners. The Indiana Chamber teamed with the following:

- One Southern Indiana (president Wendy Dant Chesser) and 2013 Indiana Chamber board chairman Kerry Stemler in Sellersburg
- Local chamber presidents Mark Dobson (Warsaw-Kosciusko County) and Jeff Rea (St. Joseph County) in Plymouth
- Northwest Indiana Forum and board chair Jill Ritchie in Merrillville
- Central Indiana Corporate Partnership (president and CEO David Johnson) in Indianapolis
- Evansville Regional Business Committee (led by Ed Hafer) in Evansville
- Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership (president John Sampson) in Fort Wayne

Each session featured guest speakers addressing challenges and/or promising initiatives in the pillar areas, as well as small group discussions and planning. A document – *Regional and Statewide Success Initiatives* – highlighting positive developments or programs related to the plan goals was provided to all participants and is available at [www.indianachamber.com/2025](http://www.indianachamber.com/2025).

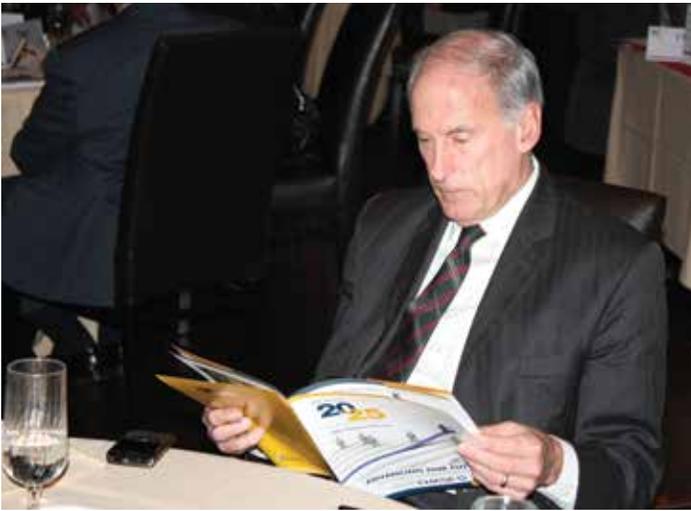
“Just as was the case with our 2012 forums and statewide summit, we value the opportunity to meet with old friends and new allies across the state in their own backyards,” offers Chamber President Kevin Brinegar. “We are able to gather feedback, further understand ways we can work together and plan for the next phases of *Indiana Vision 2025* implementation.”

*BizVoice*® continues its comprehensive *Indiana Vision 2025* coverage in this issue with a special section on Outstanding Talent. Turn the page for our cover story on the innovative and successful South Bend Career Academy.

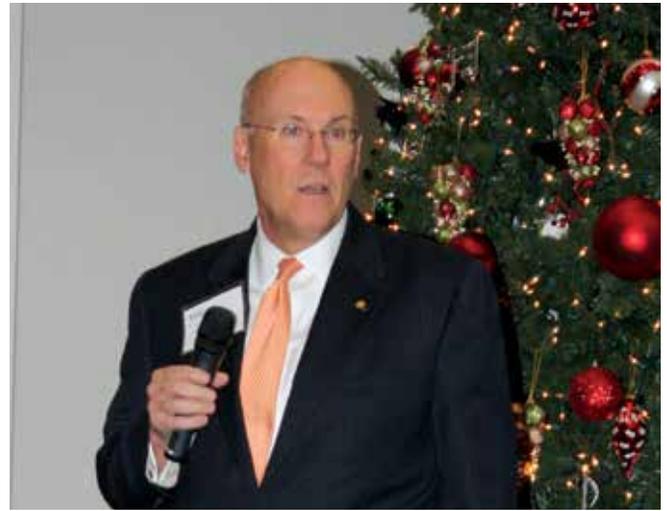
In addition, a trio of three-story packages looks at talent development from the perspective of interns, college students and the adult workforce. The roundtable discussion brings together a diverse group of regional forum participants to discuss STEM and other education/training initiatives. We close with a look at a new state entity – the Center for Education and Career Innovation.

We value your interest and involvement in helping to make Indiana a “global leader in innovation and economic opportunity where enterprises and citizens prosper.”

**RESOURCE:** *Indiana Vision 2025* at [www.indianachamber.com/2025](http://www.indianachamber.com/2025)



U.S. Sen. Dan Coats, at the Merrillville forum, reviews some of the promising initiatives taking place to help accomplish the *Indiana Vision 2025* goals.



Lake City Bank's Mike Kubacki, part of the task force that developed *Indiana Vision 2025* and a member of the Northeast Indiana Regional Opportunities Council, delivers closing remarks in Fort Wayne.



Chamber President Kevin Brinegar outlines *Indiana Vision 2025* progress in Sellersburg.



Julia Glaser (left, Harrison College) and table colleagues Krystal Levi and Jim Story work on establishing priorities in Plymouth.



Nearly 100 participants were engaged in the Indianapolis forum.



Ed Hafer (second from left), regional partner in Evansville, discusses key topics with (from left), Jim Heck, Alan Johnson and Kevin Hammett.