

# It Remains All About the People

T-A-L-E-N-T

Six letters; one critical factor in the economic future of Indiana.

I fully understand that I am not the first person to state this in recent years. But the skills gap – the mismatch between workers' abilities and what employers are requiring for today's jobs – is simply too important to ignore.



How big is the challenge? Check out the infographic on Page 6 (and see more at [www.indianachamber.com/education](http://www.indianachamber.com/education)) with results of the ninth annual employer workforce survey from the Chamber and its foundation. Spoiler alert: 45% say they left jobs unfilled last year due to under-qualified applicants.

What do we do about it? For the future workforce, bringing educators and business leaders together is crucial – it doesn't happen nearly as often as one might think. The Indiana Chamber Foundation did so recently at Honda (Page 7) and we have reported on other efforts in the March-April editions the last two years (view the archives at [www.bizvoicemagazine.com](http://www.bizvoicemagazine.com)).

When we brought four construction leaders together for this issue for a roundtable discussion (Page 36), it took only a few minutes before the topic turned to labor. With infrastructure needs so great, it is imperative for construction companies to be successful in growing and retaining the required talent.

The story is the same when we turn to the Madison area in our County Focus (Page 62). Jefferson County manufacturers are striving to cultivate their own employees with investments in young people. Find out about the early returns.

And, of course, as we've noted before, Outstanding Talent is the leading driver in the Chamber's *Indiana Vision 2025* plan. A statewide task force reviewed, refreshed and revised that broad-based economic development effort early this year. Read more (Page 18) and think about what you can do to ensure "Indiana will be a global leader in innovation and economic opportunity where enterprises and citizens prosper."

Thank you, as always, for reading *BizVoice*®.

Kevin M. Brinegar  
President and CEO



#### **Indiana Chamber Mission:**

Cultivate a world-class environment which provides economic opportunity and prosperity for the people of Indiana and their enterprises.



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