

Taking the Initial Workforce Steps

It's been written on these pages before. It's included later in this issue in setting up our series of on-site stories. And it will continue to be emphasized.

What is it? Actually, "it" is two related statements. One, education and workforce development are the keys to our state's economic success. Two, it's no coincidence that Outstanding Talent is the top driver in our *Indiana Vision 2025* plan.



Few will argue with the education-workforce importance. Many will disagree, however, on the missing ingredient. Are schools not producing students with the skills needed for college and careers? Are employers simply complaining about the quality of the workforce but not doing enough to be part of the solution?

I suggest that after reading the stories in this edition you will see that some positive steps are taking place. More people are bypassing the blame game and collaborating to do what's best for today's students and tomorrow's workers.

But those signs of hope emerge from a still threatening cloud. In too many cases, the alliances are just beginning. In too many cases, educators have not been going into the workplace to see for themselves how they can best align the classroom concepts with today's job realities. In too many cases, employers have not led the way in teaming with educators to secure that needed alignment.

At one of the places our staff visited, the president of a leading business said (and I paraphrase) about education-business-community efforts, "We try things and we make mistakes. We keep doing the ones that work and adjust those that don't."

The simple nature of that approach should not diminish its importance.

Be proactive! Be bold!

Why? Only because the future of our young people, the future of the businesses that are our economic engines and the future of our communities is dependent on our success.

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.



BizVoice® is printed on FSC® certified paper

BIZVOICE

www.bizvoicemagazine.com
March/April 2015 | Volume 18, Number 2

BizVoice®

Publisher
Kevin Brinegar
kbrinegar@indianachamber.com

Editor
Tom Schuman
(317) 264-3792
tschuman@indianachamber.com

Art Director
Tony Spataro
tspataro@indianachamber.com

Managing Editor
Rebecca Patrick
rpatrick@indianachamber.com

Advertising
Jim Wagner
(317) 264-6876
jwagner@indianachamber.com

Writers/Editors
Charlee Beasor
cbeasor@indianachamber.com

Katie Coffin
kcoffin@indianachamber.com

Matt Ottinger
mottinger@indianachamber.com

Symone C. Skrzycki
sskrzycki@indianachamber.com

Contributors
Teresa Lubbers

Mission
To inform and influence

Indiana Chamber Chair
Tom Easterday
Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Lafayette

Indiana Chamber Vice Chair
Tom Hirons
Hirons & Co. Communications Inc., Indianapolis

President and CEO
Kevin Brinegar

BizVoice® (ISSN 1521-0146) is published bimonthly by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, 115 W. Washington, Suite 850S, P.O. Box 44926, Indianapolis, IN 46244-0926. BizVoice® magazine is provided as a benefit of membership in the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. Non-member subscriptions: \$25.20 per year (includes sales tax). Periodicals postage paid at Indianapolis, IN and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BizVoice®, 115 W. Washington, Suite 850S, P.O. Box 44926, Indianapolis, IN 46244-0926.

Indiana Chamber of Commerce, 115 W. Washington, Suite 850S, Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: (317) 264-3110 | Fax: (317) 264-6855
www.indianachamber.com | bizvoice@indianachamber.com

©Copyright 2015, Indiana Chamber of Commerce