

# How is Indiana Faring in Economic Battles?

The seven words in the headline above seem pretty straightforward. But the question posed does not offer a simple answer.

We ask it in regard to the Indiana Chamber's *Indiana Vision 2025* plan and the recent Report Card release evaluating Indiana's progress on metrics related to the 33 goals. The results (story on Page 12) do little to provide a decisive response.



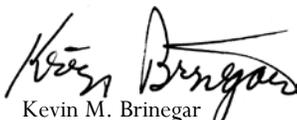
For each nugget worthy of celebration, there is a corresponding concern. In the critical Outstanding Talent driver, for example, impressive improvements in reading and math scores (particularly for fourth graders) are offset by a continuing lack of achievement in higher education completion. The shortage of residents with education credentials beyond high school remains among the most serious challenges to future economic prosperity.

You will learn much more in the full story. I want to point out here that work on this plan started nearly five years ago in the fall of 2010. The 2025 time frame seemed far away at that point. But we're now one-third of the way into this mission – and a mere 10 years away from its conclusion. It's possible that only then can we properly provide the elusive "making the grade" answer.

Another of the *Indiana Vision 2025* drivers is Superior Infrastructure. *BizVoice*® goes in-depth in this issue – from air and rail transportation to broadband expansion and energy developments. Don't miss the profile of Truck City and owner Gerri Davis-Parker – both working to make a difference in Gary.

We also share some additional Northern Indiana success stories – from the red-hot recreational vehicle industry in Elkhart County to a special spotlight on Kosciusko County and its global agricultural impact.

Finally, *BizVoice* earned six additional national and state awards for its work in 2014. Writers Rebecca Patrick, Charlee Beasor and Tom Schuman were recognized along with creative director Tony Spataro. The magazine has earned 75 honors in its 16-year history. Full details are at [www.bizvoicemagazine.com](http://www.bizvoicemagazine.com).



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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