

Stan Was Our State's Education Man

Education, and its critical role in helping provide the workers that create economic success for our companies and our state, has been a featured topic throughout the 19-year history of this publication. Beyond the business/workforce implications, we're talking about the future of our young people.

Stan Jones, featured on the pages of *BizVoice*® a number of times, passed away in February. While his resume may have read state legislator (first elected at age 24), commissioner of higher education and later national leader of the Complete College America initiative, Stan was first and foremost a passionate advocate for students in the education process.

Politics were put aside when it came to our young people. Stan led the way in bringing opposing factions together. Years of policy inaction were replaced by positive education changes that will continue to benefit Hoosiers for years to come.

Perhaps more than any person I've known, Stan was doggedly persistent in getting people and groups that were often adversaries to sit down and talk to one another. Stan was a visionary leader, first in K-12, then higher education. He was soft-spoken, thoughtful and extremely intelligent. He was very instrumental in the formation of Indiana's Education Roundtable, which served our state well for many years.

It's not an overstatement that Stan redefined what the commissioner of higher education could accomplish. He led the charge to make college more accessible to a wider population, pushed to raise the state's K-12 academic standards, helped to formulate performance-based funding and to fully develop the state's community college system.

Stan Jones was the Indiana Chamber's 2009 Government Leader of the Year; view that *BizVoice* feature story in the November-December 2009 archives at www.indianachamber.com.

With this issue's focus on the *Indiana Vision 2025* driver of Outstanding Talent, we proudly dedicate it to Stan Jones.



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.



Stan Jones and Kevin Brinegar at the 2009 Annual Awards Dinner.



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To inform and influence

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