Looking Back - and Way Ahead

t is difficult to believe that, as of this writing, I am embarking on my 20th year of service with the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. As I was preparing to join this organization after 12 years in tax and budget analyst positions at the Indiana Statehouse, I attended the Chamber's 3rd Annual Awards Dinner in 1992. The guest speaker was former U.S. Secretary of Education William Bennett. The day after the dinner featured a debate between U.S. Senate candidates Dan Coats and Joe Hogsett.



There have been outstanding presenters and entertainers over the years – with quite possibly none topping the 2010 "performance" of Tom Brokaw. His message of patriotism, courage and civility captivated the audience and exceeded our already lofty expectations.

The award winners, of course, make each year special. Our communications team has done an excellent job in this issue profiling Business Leader of the Year Jean Wojtowicz, Government Leaders of the Year Brian Bosma and David Long, and Community of the Year Kokomo. All have great stories to share, and I'm confident you'll enjoy learning more about their accomplishments.

In addition, we highlight a number of outstanding companies and their people. Not only have they been long-time Chamber members, but also leaders in their industries and communities.

While we celebrate important past achievements, our Chamber focus is also squarely on the future. During the past year, a 24-person taskforce has been working on a project titled *Indiana Vision 2025*. A follow-up to our successful *Economic Vision 2010* initiative, this plan sets a long-range course for added prosperity for Hoosiers and their enterprises.

You will be seeing much more on *Indiana Vision 2025* in these pages in the coming issues and you will have the opportunity to join us in working toward making Indiana the absolute best it can be. Thank you for reading *BizVoice®* and for your continued support of the Indiana Chamber.

Kevin M. Brinegar (President and CEO)

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