

Business Excellence, With an Education Twist

In 1990, a new business event was born. Dick Wood, nearing the end of a 20-year tenure as president and CEO of Eli Lilly and Company; Richard Lugar, in just his third term of what would become a landmark career as a U.S. senator; and the northeast Indiana community of Bluffton were honored at a luncheon.



Twenty-four years later, the Indiana Chamber's Annual Awards Dinner is the biggest and best – OK, I'll admit I'm biased – recognition of statewide business success. While the tradition of Business Leader, Government Leader and Community of the Year awards continues, the more than 1,400 attendees each year are treated to a broader celebration of Indiana at its best.

Congratulations to Mike Kubacki of Lake City Bank, U.S. Rep. Susan Brooks and Bloomington as the 2014 honorees. You can read about their accomplishments in the pages that follow. One tie that bonds the three, and remains the most critical issue facing our state's future, is the inseparable combination of education and the workforce.

Kubacki has always been passionate about enhancing K-12 education effectiveness to prepare young people for future careers. In his own organization, he was well ahead of the curve in establishing Lake City University to help meet the business and personal needs of the bank's associates.

Brooks comes from a family deeply engrained in education. Prior to being elected to Congress, she served four-plus years in an important role at Ivy Tech Community College. She brings that experience and mindset to her role in Washington.

Part of the success for Bloomington is a direct result of ongoing efforts at Indiana University and the local Ivy Tech campus. Linking higher education offerings and outputs to demonstrated business needs is a proven winning formula.

The current and past honorees form a prestigious Indiana hall of fame. We look forward to the next 25 years and beyond – honoring outstanding achievement and telling the stories on these pages.

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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