

Business to Benefit From Higher Ed Plan

It's impossible to overstate the vital role Indiana's higher education institutions play in our workforce development and with the state's economy.

Where would we be without the doctors, engineers, teachers, business professionals and much more that they produce each year? Where would we be without our first-rate research schools at Indiana and Purdue? The list could go on and on.

That's why it is all the more imperative that the state's higher education system stays ahead of the curve and remains competitive nationally and internationally for the best and brightest.

An initial report released in 2007 by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education is promoting such proactive measures. *Reaching Higher: Strategic Directions for Higher Education in Indiana* targets five areas in which the state's colleges and universities can realize significant improvements. These areas are access, affordability, student success, college preparation and contributions to Indiana's economy. A final report from the commission is expected this spring.

Among the general outcomes to date:

- Indiana has strong individual colleges and universities, but this study embodies the opportunity for an even better performing higher education system
- Seeing students graduate college in a timely manner, making college more accessible through keeping tuition costs down and encouraging better college preparedness in high school are all aspects that must be addressed

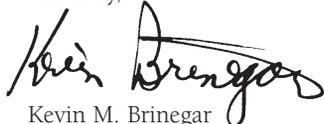
With workforce preparedness the most critical long-term issue for the state, I encourage the business community to support the recommendations and improvement efforts. Your companies and your employees will be the ultimate beneficiaries.

Beginning on Page 12, *BizVoice*® takes an in-depth look at the *Reaching Higher* recommendations and gets reaction from university presidents and other experts.

With the commission paving the way and new leadership in place at our largest public institutions – Indiana, Purdue and Ivy Tech – this is an important opportunity to reinforce our strengths and make strides regarding our shortcomings.

Let's make sure we take advantage of it.

Sincerely,



Kevin M. Brinegar
President



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