

Business, Educators Work Together

Strong connections between the business community and higher education are essential. With the new and evolving skills required for today's and tomorrow's workers, education and workforce training play a larger role than ever in our state's economic success.

As the leading broad-based business association in the state, it's crucial for the Indiana Chamber of Commerce to help facilitate and solidify those connections. It's a mission our organization continues to achieve in many ways, including during this unprecedented time of new leadership at Indiana's three largest higher education institutions.

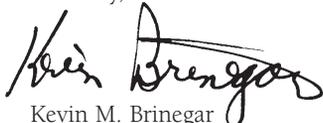
Thomas Snyder, the new president at Ivy Tech Community College, is a longtime member of the Indiana Chamber board of directors and executive committee. His experience as president of Delco Remy and throughout his long, successful business career is just what Ivy Tech needs to achieve success in its enhanced role as a true community college. Snyder understands the workforce needs, and with the talent and resources at Ivy Tech will help establish even closer partnerships between the school's 23 campuses and area companies.

The people leading the boards of trustees at Indiana and Purdue universities also have been valuable Chamber contributors. Steve Ferguson of Cook Group in Bloomington and Indiana University remains, like Snyder, a key member of the board and executive committee. Timothy McGinley (House Investments in Indianapolis and Purdue University) is a former member of the Chamber board.

All three outgoing university presidents – Gerry Lamkin at Ivy Tech, Martin Jischke at Purdue and Adam Herbert at Indiana – were not only board members but active participants in a variety of important policy discussions and initiatives. (Jo Ann Gora of Ball State and Lloyd Benjamin of Indiana State are among the others in higher education on that list). We look forward to establishing similar relationships with incoming leaders France Córdova of Purdue and Michael McRobbie of Indiana.

The 2007 General Assembly made significant investments in higher education. We will continue to work with university leaders to see that the results of those investments pay dividends in the form of growth for Indiana companies and their employees.

Sincerely,



Kevin M. Brinegar
President



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