

Honoring Winners ... and Issuing a Warning

Each October is a very busy, but special time for the Indiana Chamber. Two events offer a contrast that keeps the organization focused on its mission.

The first, our Annual Awards Dinner, allows us to celebrate what is best about Indiana business. While we honor our business leader, government leader(s) and community of the year, the event is truly a recognition of all who work to make the state's business community the best it can be.

Our 2003 winners, profiled in this issue, are Doug Bawel, state representatives B. Patrick Bauer and Brian Bosma, and the community of Warsaw. Each is a strong addition to the list of previous honorees.

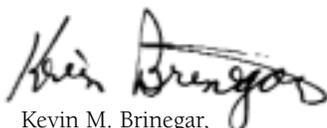
Bawel's infectious enthusiasm guides Jasper Engines and Transmissions to new heights. Veteran legislators Bauer and Bosma joined forces to shepherd critical economic development initiatives through the legislative process. Warsaw's diversified business mix and quality of life amenities form a powerful combination for employers, employees and families.

Our second fall tradition, at least over the last four years, is the release of the Chamber's Economic Vision 2010 Report Card. An evaluation of Indiana's progress in improving its business climate, the Report Card is the measuring tool for the Chamber's *Economic Vision 2010*, a long-range economic development plan for the state.

As in years past, there are areas of achievement. While we note those accomplishments, the sobering reality is that Indiana remains a middle-of-the-road competitor against other states and nations. Opportunities for improvement are still available, but that competition becomes more intense each day, particularly with the rapidly changing economies of portions of Europe and the Far East.

Workforce, productivity, digital infrastructure and dynamism challenges must be met to ensure a bright economic future. A hint of the latest Report Card findings begins on Page 26, with full release of the data, as well as next steps needed, coming on November 6.

Congratulations to our award winners are warranted. The Report Card, however, tempers the enthusiasm slightly with the realization that much work remains to help Indiana leaders achieve future success.



Kevin M. Brinegar,
President



BizVoice

November/December 2003
Volume 6, Number 6

BizVOICE

Publisher

Kevin Brinegar

kbrinegar@indianachamber.com

Editor

Tom Schuman

tschuman@indianachamber.com

Layout/Graphics

Tony Spataro

tspataro@indianachamber.com

Editorial Assistance

Rebecca Patrick

rpatrick@indianachamber.com

Advertising

Victor Bowers

(317) 264-7538

vbowers@indianachamber.com

Advertising Billing

Liz Hodge

Contributors

Tara Avery

Charles B. Baldwin

Patty Prosser

George Raymond

Graham Toft

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**Indiana Chamber of Commerce
Chair**

Jean Wojtowicz

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Kevin Brinegar

BizVoice (ISSN 1521-0146) is published bimonthly by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, 115 W. Washington, Suite 850S, P.O. Box 44926, Indianapolis, IN 46244-0926. BizVoice magazine is provided as a benefit of membership in the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. Non-member subscriptions: \$25.20 per year (includes sales tax). Periodicals postage paid at Indianapolis and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BizVoice, 115 W. Washington, Suite 850S, P.O. Box 44926, Indianapolis, IN 46244-0926.

Indiana Chamber of Commerce
115 W. Washington, Suite 850S
P.O. Box 44926
Indianapolis, IN 46244-0926
Phone: (317) 264-3110, Fax: (317) 264-6855
Internet address: www.indianachamber.com
E-mail: bizvoice@indianachamber.com

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