

## J.D. Is Going to Talk; We Will All Be Listening

J.D. Vance just may be the perfect person to keynote the Indiana Chamber's 29th Annual Awards Dinner this November. We're confident you will get a glimpse why after reading our exclusive interview with him on Page 16.

If you know his name, it's likely because you're one of the millions who have read his best-selling personal story *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*. Or it's due to his work with Steve Case at Revolution and their Rise of the Rest tours of Midwest entrepreneurial regions.



So why Vance and why now?

- His book tackles issues that are most prevalent in today's society – the opioid epidemic, social mobility challenges and a lack of small town economic opportunities.

Vance grew up in Middletown, Ohio (near Cincinnati) with his family's roots in Appalachia in eastern Kentucky. His mother, a nurse, became addicted to painkillers. A series of men passed through his life. The guidance of his grandparents helped pave the way to service in the Marines, graduation from Ohio State University in only two years and earning his law degree from Yale.

- Vance, of course, was the exception to the norm given his early days. Many young people are unable to escape their roots and the lack of jobs contributes to a downward spiral.

The demographics don't lie. Rural communities are struggling – unless they work with their neighbors and become part of what he terms "regional economic powerhouses."

- The Midwest can and should be home to entrepreneurial hotbeds, Vance asserts. He came to Indianapolis in October 2017, has since invested in several local companies and says he is convinced, more than ever, that high-growth companies can thrive throughout the country.

J.D. Vance is 34 years old. His life experiences far exceed that arbitrary number. We look forward to hearing his message on November 13 during an always special evening.

Read on in this issue for a variety of stories on the Dynamic and Creative Culture driver of *Indiana Vision 2025* and a special section on health care and wellness.

Thank you, as always, for reading *BizVoice*®.

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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