

RECOGNIZING INDIANA'S BEST AND A FOND FAREWELL

It's hard to believe November 14 marks the 34th year of our Annual Awards Dinner. It's even harder to believe this will be my last – as I head into retirement in January. And I'm grateful to say I've been at the Chamber for all but the first few of these impactful and entertaining events.



The 2023 honorees highlighted in these pages include:

- Ogletree Deakins Business Leader of the Year:** Real estate developer Paul Thrift has an inspiring story: As a teenage entrepreneur, he co-founded Thompson Thrift, a firm that today is literally changing the landscape of communities across the country. A soft-spoken and faith-led CEO, Thrift is the epitome of a servant leader.
- Birch Bayh-Richard Lugar Government Leader of the Year:** In today's political climate, it takes a true problem solver to build consensus and get things done. For reaching across the aisle to work with Democratic leadership in authoring and supporting the CHIPS and Science Act to strengthen the country's economic and national security, U.S. Sen. Todd Young is worthy of recognition.
- Dynamic Leader of the Year:** Mario Rodriguez – one of the most influential minds in our state – is being honored for his efforts in piloting the strategic direction of the Indianapolis Airport Authority, operating Indiana's largest airport system in the Indianapolis metropolitan area and elevating its stature and importance as an economic hub.
- NextEra Energy Resources Community of the Year:** Nothing, it seems, can stop the red-hot momentum of the second-fastest growing county in the state: Boone County. Situated just north of Indianapolis, it's attracting businesses of all sizes and sectors, as well as citizens with its increasing list of job opportunities and quality-of-life amenities.

In this edition, we also say “thanks” and celebrate the Indiana Chamber's Samuel C. Schlosser Volunteers of the Year – Andy Bowman, Lori Danielson and Dr. Jim Roberts – for all they've done for our organization this past year.

Additionally, we feature public policy matters, highlight Indiana Chamber members, profile Indiana's Best Places to Work in Manufacturing and more.

As I mentioned previously, I will be retiring – and this is my last time participating in *BizVoice*®. I've been delighted to see the publication grow into Indiana's most comprehensive statewide business magazine in its nearly 25 years of existence, and we're honored to cover the many achievements of the state's businesses, government and partnerships.

So, thank you for reading *BizVoice*. It's been a pleasure to serve as its publisher and I look forward to remaining a very interested reader going forward!


 Kevin Brinegar
 President and CEO



BIZVOICE®

www.bizvoicemagazine.com
 November 2023 | Volume 26, Number 4

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BizVoice® (ISSN 1521-0146) is published quarterly 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, IN and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *BizVoice*®, 115 W. Washington, Suite 850S, P.O. Box 44926, Indianapolis, IN 46244-0926.

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Cultivate a world-class environment which provides economic opportunity and prosperity for the people of Indiana and their enterprises.