

# NO TIME FOR THE WINTER BLUES

While Indiana winters can cool things off, the Indiana General Assembly is heating up and our public affairs team is deeply engaged at the Statehouse.

You will find the Indiana Chamber's Top 10 legislative priorities highlighted in this edition; they pull from the organization's economic playbook for the state, *Indiana Prosperity 2035*.

In the cover story, we examine the growing implications of the labor shortage that is gripping Indiana and the nation. The conversation offers a candid assessment and puts forth what the state and employers need to do to flip the script. New Indiana Secretary of Commerce David Adams is among those weighing in.

*BizVoice*® also takes a deep dive on education and workforce development/talent, which currently are among the areas of most interest to employers.

We further spotlight the importance of apprenticeships in the state and explore childcare, higher education and adult learning efforts. A key voice in this entire area is Indiana Secretary of Education Dr. Katie Jenner, who talks with us about Governor Braun's 2025 education and workforce initiatives that will be of utmost importance to the business community and students. Our ExecConnect features the first leader at Indiana University Indianapolis: chancellor Latha Ramchand.

Approximately 80% of Indiana Chamber members are small businesses, and they are so vital to the state's economy and future. A new *BizVoice* section tells the inspiring stories of small businesses and that entrepreneurial spirit running through each one. Among those featured: The Elderberry Co. from New Albany, an upstart that is making individuals nationwide feel better and the Coolest Thing Made IN Indiana co-champions.

We also enjoy the scenic route down Interstate 69 to Vanderburgh County. Not only is it home to Indiana's third largest city, but this county is burgeoning on so many fronts. Perhaps most notable is a riverfront development underway that will truly transform downtown Evansville and revitalize the region. Further investigation into the area also reveals thriving businesses – new and old.

As always, thank you for supporting the Indiana Chamber and reading *BizVoice*!

Rebecca Patrick  
Senior Vice President, Communications & Marketing



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