

**STATE OF INDIANA  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
INDIANAPOLIS**

**PROCLAMATION**

Executive Order

**TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS:**

- WHEREAS,** the state of Indiana has cultivated a strong and diverse economy to ensure Indiana remains an attractive destination for companies to start here and existing companies to reinvest, grow and innovate here; and
- WHEREAS,** Hoosier businesses, workers, communities and students alike are impacted by rapid advancements in technology, changing their awareness of and access to infrastructure needed to ensure the skills necessary to compete in a global marketplace; and
- WHEREAS,** talent attraction, development and connection are keys to continued economic investment growth; and
- WHEREAS,** growing 21<sup>st</sup> century talent is no longer the province of any single agency, organization or unit of government alone, but involves collaboration across public and private sectors at the state, regional and local levels; and
- WHEREAS,** the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Talent Region initiative was launched to ensure every student is on a learning path to adult prosperity, every adult Hoosier has access to training aligned to work with future growth opportunities and every employer has the tools they need to recruit, train and retain talent; and
- WHEREAS,** the West Central 2025 Region has committed to working across geographic lines to attract, develop and connect talent while working together with the Office of Career Connections and Talent, Indiana Economic Development Corporation and CivicLab. The region is developing a data-driven plan to grow population, increase educational attainment and raise household income; and
- WHEREAS,** West Central 2025, a six-county region encompassing Clay, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Vermillion and Vigo counties, commenced implementation of priorities identified in the plan to receive a designation as a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Talent Region and identified the goals to: (1) Immediately begin building individual community teams focused on: leveraging placemaking strategies and related performance goals, examining data to determine next steps in achieving equitable opportunities for the entire West Central Indiana population, and growing partnerships across the region, (2) By the end of 2020, analyze available data and work to complete regional goal setting for talent attraction and connection milestones, and (3) By 2025, halt population decline to a negligible number and connect talent with equitable economic opportunities to raise per capita personal income to 85 percent of the state average;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Eric J. Holcomb,** Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby designate the West Central 2025 Region as a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Talent Region and invite all citizens to duly note this occasion.

*In Testimony Whereof, I hereto  
set my hand and cause to be affixed the  
Great Seal of State. Done at the  
City of Terre Haute, this 21<sup>st</sup>  
day of July in the year of our  
Lord 2020 and of the Independence  
of the United States 243.*

**BY THE GOVERNOR:** \_\_\_\_\_