

**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 21st 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 21st 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 Southwest Indiana 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,** the Southwest Indiana Region, which encompasses the Evansville Metropolitan Statistical Area including Gibson, Posey, Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties in southwest Indiana, along with Henderson County in Kentucky, commenced implementation of priorities identified in the Talent 2025 plan as well as receive a designation as a 21st Century Talent Region. The region identified goals to, by 2025: (1) Leverage the power of place to grow the region's population by 2.8 percent, (2) Utilize their home-grown learning system to increase educational attainment with credentials beyond high school from 23.2 to 25 percent, and (3) Focus on equitable economic opportunities to advance median household incomes from \$47,914 to \$55,042;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Eric J. Holcomb, Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby designate the Southwest Indiana Region as a 21st 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 Evansville, this 28th
day of October in the year of our
Lord 2020 and of the Independence
of the United States 243.*

BY THE GOVERNOR: _____