

**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 Northwest 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 Northwest Indiana Region, a seven-county region encompassing Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Newton, Porter, Pulaski and Starke Counties, commenced implementation of priorities identified in the plan to receive a designation as a 21st Century Talent Region and identified the goals to: (1) Maintain the dashboard intended to serve all regional partners to deepen consistent collaboration through shared goals and operating practices, (2) Analyze data and identify baseline and progress metrics for regional talent attraction and connection by the summer of 2021, (3) Adopt an equity focus across the region with the intention of narrowing the achievement gap for minority and underserved high school students by increasing graduation rates by 3 percent each year, (4) Increase employer engagement with the education and workforce systems in high-demand industry sectors, to be measured by increasing the number of internship or apprenticeship opportunities available to youth and adults by 10 percent each year, and (5) Increase the number of high school graduates with post-secondary credentials by 5 percent each year;

*In Testimony Whereof, I hereto
set my hand and cause to be affixed the
Great Seal of State. Done at the
City of Valparaiso, this 18th
day of September in the year of our
Lord 2020 and of the Independence
of the United States 243.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Eric J. Holcomb, Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby designate the Northwest Indiana Region as a 21st Century Talent Region and invite all citizens to duly note this occasion.

BY THE GOVERNOR: _____