

**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 South Bend Elkhart Region including Elkhart, Marshall, and St. Joseph counties have 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,** South Bend - Elkhart Regional Partnership 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) Establish a digital Center for Work-Based Learning through the development and launch of a Regional Innovation Asset Portal in support of regional industry advancement, entrepreneurship, and talent development initiatives, (2) Grow student and adult career coaching through Career Pathway initiatives, (3) Launch a regional brand and implement talent retention and attraction marketing strategy, and (4) Adopt a diversity, equity, and inclusion focus with the intention of narrowing the opportunity gap for disadvantaged and/or minority populations that have been historically underserved across the region;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Eric J. Holcomb,** Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby designate the South Bend Elkhart 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 South Bend, this 17th  
day of January in the year of our  
Lord 2020 and of the Independence  
of the United States 243.*

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