

**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 Southern Indiana Gateway 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 Southern Indiana Gateway Region, a six-county region encompassing Crawford, Dubois, Orange, Perry, Pike and Spencer 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) increase regional population 15% by 2026 by providing the necessary housing and broadband infrastructure to build capacity, (2) increase the certified skills of the population 20% through programs with regional workforce boards and innovation with community colleges and universities, (3) increase the number of high school graduates with stackable credentials and/or certificates by 20% by 2026, (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% each year, and (5) provide continual engagement of partnerships with civic groups and elected leadership with events of opportunity and continuum of care with the goal to raise collective assessed value by 5% and 10 events by 2026 as well as invest in marketing the talent region for population growth;

*In Testimony Whereof, I hereto
set my hand and cause to be affixed the
Great Seal of State. Done on this 1st
day of June in the year of our
Lord 2021 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 Southern Indiana Gateway Region as a 21st Century Talent Region and invite all citizens to duly note this occasion.

BY THE GOVERNOR: _____