

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 East Central Indiana Talent 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 East Central Indiana Talent Region, currently a seven-county region encompassing Delaware, Grant, Henry, Jay, Randolph, Rush and Wayne 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 of: (1) Leveraging our quality of place assets to boost population trends by 11 percent resulting in a net zero percent population change by 2030, (2) Mobilizing our learning system to increase postsecondary educational attainment of more than 9,000 Hoosiers by 2025, and (3) Building upon equitable economic opportunities to increase median household income and earnings by 7.5 percent by 2025 through the following core initiatives: (a) Increasing integration of East Central Indiana's Forge Your Path lifestyle marketing initiative across stakeholder marketing and talent attraction efforts by December 2021, (b) Establishing regional coalitions to develop plans to increase achievement in early childhood, K-8, high school, and adult/higher education by December 2021, (c) Laying the groundwork for industry-specific networks to participate in regional implementation plans and develop talent pipelines in manufacturing, trades, education, healthcare and technology by early 2022, and (d) Defining and prioritizing diversity, equity and inclusion in all talent attraction, development and connection efforts through and beyond 2022;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Eric J. Holcomb, Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby designate the East Central Indiana Talent 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 on this  
22nd day of January in the year of  
our Lord 2021 and of the Independence  
of the United States 245.*



BY THE GOVERNOR:

*Eric J. Holcomb*