

Governor Mike Pence
German Workforce Initiative Summit
July 8, 2013
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

Thank you, President Snyder.

Ambassador Peter Ammon, Senator Dan Coats, Mayor Greg Ballard, distinguished guests and fellow Hoosiers...

It is a privilege to join you today to discuss Germany's vocational training Skills Initiative and to celebrate Indiana's ever-strengthening relationship with Germany, both as friends and business partners.

I realize I am a new face to many of you, so I'll give you a short overview. I'm a native Hoosier, born and raised in Columbus. I graduated from Hanover College in southern Indiana and earned my law degree at Indiana University in Indianapolis. Most recently, I served Indiana from 2001 to 2012 as a member of Congress. As Governor, I am committed to continuing Indiana on a pathway to success through fiscal responsibility, economic growth and educational opportunity for every Hoosier child. The First Lady and I have three children, the youngest of whom just graduated from high school last month.

As we gather today, I'd like to start by renewing Indiana's commitment to our meaningful and impactful friendship with Germany. Our administration will continue to nurture and grow this relationship, which is a priority as we plan for the months and years ahead. In fact, Indiana Secretary of Commerce Victor Smith recently returned from a jobs mission to Germany where he met with a number of companies to discuss the benefits of doing business in Indiana and future investment opportunities in the Hoosier state.

Indiana and Germany's bond is solidified by a strong heritage, with many Hoosiers having German roots. From the Indiana German Heritage Society to the Max Kade German-American Center of Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis, to Amish Acres in Nappanee, the German culture is integral to the fabric of our state. Moreover, Indianapolis and Cologne enjoy an active sister city relationship, among a number of other sister cities in Germany.

Today, in Indiana we realize that we are part of a world marketplace where we must be able to compete on production and efficiency. Indiana must earn the right everyday to be the home of

prominent international companies like Cummins, WellPoint and Eli Lilly, just to name a few, and German companies like Bayer Healthcare, Siemens, Knauf Insulation and Zentis.

We do that by offering a low cost of living, a culture of innovation, tremendous transportation infrastructure, right-to-work status and low-tax policies, including the recent passage of the largest state tax cut in Indiana history.

The Hoosier State is ranked in the top eight for 2012 Gross Domestic Product growth and is one of nine states that now have triple-A credit ratings from all three agencies. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Trade Database, Indiana exported \$2.15 billion of merchandise, the 7th most of any state, to Germany in 2012. And since 2005, the IEDC has had more than 5,000 job commitments and nearly \$1 billion in capital investment from more than 30 German-owned companies, among them PMG Indiana Corporation, Kiel NA, KTR Corporation, and ThyssenKrupp Presta Terre Haute.

As a state, we have the highest per capital manufacturing industry employment in the nation. However, our manufacturing landscape is no longer dominated by the assembly line and use of simple tools. The sector is high-tech, ever-changing and fast-growing. The jobs demand the mastery of new techniques and processes.

We realize that a location's biggest selling point will always be the skills of its workforce. A highly skilled workforce will make Indiana more competitive for investment and opportunities on the world stage.

Companies must foresee and adapt to the changing needs of their consumers. Likewise, Indiana needs to look at its workforce and adapt it to address the challenges both our employers and employees face.

I have long believed that making career education a priority and ensuring that every Hoosier is career ready are key factors to moving our state's economy forward. And I'm pleased to share that during this last legislative session, the General Assembly and our Administration took steps to make these goals a reality.

From kindergarten to college, we have improved education in ways that will help the next generation succeed. We have given parents more opportunities to send their children to the school that works best for them. We've rewarded high-performing schools and teachers with increased flexibility. We have made a significant investment in successful dropout prevention programs to ensure that our kids finish high school. We've given college students new funding options, and we've made it easier for them to graduate on time. And we came together, across

party lines, to make sure our schools work for all our kids by taking a historic step toward making career and technical education a priority in every high school in Indiana.

Our state is poised to make sure our kids are more prepared than ever for the jobs of tomorrow. By addressing the skills gap that exists in our state, we have already put workforce development at the center of economic development in Indiana. We realize that in order to maintain our competitive edge as a state that works for business, our efforts to equip Hoosier workers with the next generation skills companies demand is never finished.

That's why we look to Germany for further inspiration.

The German vocational training system, with its combination of classroom and business, theory and practice, learning and working, is recognized worldwide as a highly effective model for vocational training. The private and public sectors work hand-in-hand to develop a coherent curriculum and provide optimal training facilities—always bearing in mind the real-world requirements of business. The result is a workforce that is well qualified to succeed in an advanced economy.

A dedication to effective workforce training is imperative, and we look forward to partnering with Germany to use their highly successful training system as a model. In Indiana, we recognize that we have to become a world-class location where world-class companies will create world-class opportunities for world-class Hoosiers. The Hoosier State continues to have a sound stat sheet and it's easy to see why more and more international corporate leaders are recognizing Indiana's business-friendly culture.

When we combine our heritage of manufacturing excellence with a commitment to the workforce development requirements of tomorrow's careers, we have a formula for success that keeps Indiana on the cutting-edge of the future economy.

Over the course of the next four years, our goal is to make Indiana the state that works for all Hoosiers. From my very first day as Governor, I have said that jobs will be job one. We started by passing a jobs budget in the 2013 legislative session. Our budget is honestly balanced, funds priorities, including education and workforce development, holds the line on spending and saves for the future.

As a result, we are one of the only places in America where you can find taxes going down while funding for schools and roads goes up. You have to look long and hard for a state that generates surpluses as large as ours at the same time it puts more than \$1 billion back into the economy through tax relief.

We have been recognized by Chief Executive magazine as the best state for business in the Midwest and the fifth best state nationally. Last month, the U.S. Commerce Department released its list of state GDP growth for 2012, and I'm happy to report that Indiana was 8th in the nation.

And we're just getting started.

Indiana's future looks bright, and we look forward to seeing the entire state – families and businesses, both homegrown and from afar – succeed.

Thank you to all in attendance today for your commitment to helping to make Indiana and Germany's relationship all that it is today. I look forward to our continued collaboration, discussions and friendship.

Thank you.