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Success of Indiana's Next Level Jobs Featured at Congressional Hearing

(Indianapolis) - Indiana Gov. Eric J. Holcomb's groundbreaking Next Level Jobs workforce training programs were showcased as a possible model for the nation at a U.S. House of Representatives hearing on the reauthorization of the [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#).

Patrick J. "PJ" McGrew, the executive director of the Governor's Workforce Cabinet, testified today that Next Level Jobs should be considered as Congress looks for ways to improve the federal program that provides funding to states to provide job search assistance and training opportunities. His testimony was before the House's Education and Labor Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment.

Director McGrew highlighted the success of Next Level Jobs and how Indiana's waiver agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor allows for the program to be coordinated across the state's Department of Workforce Development and Commission for Higher Education.

"As Congress considers WIOA reauthorization, we would recommend more flexibility for states to use federal funds for innovative solutions to meet individuals with education and training needs where they are and support key career paths in each state that will lead to a good paying job and upward economic mobility for all Americans," McGrew said.

Indiana has continued to experience [record-breaking expansion and business investment](#), and Next Level Jobs is a collaborative and solutions-focused program to provide for the ongoing success of the Indiana economy, employers and employees. The program consists of two components, the Workforce Ready Grant which provides free training in high-demand fields for Hoosiers to attain the credentials needed for today's workforce, and the Employer Training Grant, which allows employers to upskill new or current employees.

More than 44,000 Hoosiers have enrolled and over 22,000 have completed a Workforce Ready Grant-eligible certificate since 2017, with annual wage gains of \$6,800. Nearly 3,000 employers have participated in the Employer Training Grant and trained more than 26,500 individuals, with average wage gains of \$5,900.

Gov. Holcomb also shared his recommendations on federal workforce programs with Senate leaders recently, and his letter can be found [here](#).

Read more about Next Level Jobs [here](#).

McGrew's testimony can be found [here](#).

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About the Governor's Workforce Cabinet

The Governor's Workforce Cabinet (GWC) was formed in 2018 with the mission of addressing current and future education and employment needs for individuals and employers, strengthening Indiana's economy by integrating and aligning state and federal resources, and ensuring a talent-driven education and workforce system. The membership of the GWC includes the business community, K-12 representatives, postsecondary institutions, Indiana lawmakers, and leaders from Indiana state agencies.