



GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE CABINET



Kristen Barry joined the Governor's Workforce Cabinet in 2024 as the [Senior Director of Education and Workforce](#). She has worked in workforce development for over 10 years and has a strong focus on creating equitable access to high quality career pathways for all residents. She specializes in research and policy, strategic planning, process improvement, and strategic partner facilitation. Prior to joining GWC, she was a Vice President at EmployIndy, managing a variety of strategic initiatives, facilitating local and state partners to work toward systems change within the education to workforce pipeline, advocating for policy change, and building collaborative programs to strengthen career pathways. She led teams in national networks with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, JP Morgan Chase Global Philanthropy, Walton Family Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and others to share best practices and learn and build frameworks for equitable approaches to advancements in education and career pathways. Kristen also spent nine years working in workforce and economic development consulting, where she grew to be Director of Workforce Solutions, leading a team of consultants and project engagements across the country. She worked with workforce development boards, community colleges, state agencies, and more in over 25 states in projects ranging from strategic planning for state agencies, to data analytics, to serving as a One-Stop Operator for several local workforce development boards. Kristen holds a Master of Public Affairs in Policy Analysis and Economic Development as well as a Bachelor of Science in Nonprofit Management from the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University Bloomington. She is a lifelong Hoosier, having lived at both ends and the middle of the state. In her spare time, you can find her reading, completing house projects, or volunteering her time at Indianapolis Animal Care Services working with dogs.



Mara Klaunig joined the Governor's Workforce Cabinet as [Senior Director of Research and Analysis](#) in late 2023. She is passionate about workforce analytics and crafting strategies to ensure all members of the community have access to quality jobs and opportunities for advancement. Prior to joining GWC, Mara worked in workforce and economic development consulting for over 10 years. She specialized in creating customized research methodologies to inform policy and worked for a wide array of clients across the nation (and within Indiana), including industry sector partnerships, higher education institutions, community organizations, and local and regional economic development organizations. Some of her recent projects include development of a broadband workforce strategy for the State of Maine, workforce strategies to support target

industry clusters for multiple regions in New York, and a workforce attraction and retention strategy for the State of New Hampshire. Mara holds a Master of Public Affairs degree from the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from Ball State University. Mara has contributed articles on the importance of workforce in economic development for Expansion Solutions magazine and has been interviewed by Time Magazine, NPR's Weekend Edition, PBS' NewHour, Bloomberg, The Wall Street Journal, NBC's The Today Show, MarketWatch, and CNBC's Last Call, among others. As a long-time resident of Indiana, Mara is looking forward to the opportunity to ensure her own community has a future-ready talent pipeline, and she is excited to jump into the important work being done by the GWC team. In her free time, she enjoys going on adventures with her three kids, including a quest to visit each of Indiana's state parks.



Brooke McCormack joined the Governor's Workforce Council as a **Communications Specialist** in late 2023. For the better part of the past ten years, she has worked in a variety of administrative and support roles with experience in event management, marketing, communications, operations management, and executive assistance. She was formerly an Executive Coordinator at a privately-held insurance company and, prior to that, a Community Engagement Coordinator at Butler University. She finds joy in helping others and is passionate about being a resource for those around her. Brooke is originally from Ohio and graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Communication from Wittenberg University. As a long-term Indiana resident, she is thrilled to be part of an organization that is making a difference and supporting the local community. In her spare time, you can find her shopping or eating at a local spot, walking her dogs, attempting a new Pinterest project, or planning her next trip with her husband.