Compendium:

NORTHEAST INDIANA WORKS

Board Newsletter, March 2022

Dear Board Members:

Northeast Indiana Works has formed and begun convening a Youth Career Collective designed generally to align youth career awareness and talent pipeline development in northeast Indiana.

Youth Career Collective Formed; Addresses Alignment

Initial core participants in the collective include **Lena Yarian**, president of Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana; **Chris Angellatta**, president and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne; **Joe Jordan**, president and CEO of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Fort Wayne, **Dr. Mark Daniel**, superintendent of Fort Wayne Community Schools, and **Dr. Elizabeth Bushnell**, executive director of the Questa Education Foundation. More leaders will be added over time.

The group is still refining its mission, vision, purpose, goals and strategies, but among the draft goals for the Collective: Aligning multiple resources across the region for greater impact serving students and building a system for communication, collaboration, and connection among Collective members.

Among the goals for students: Establishing an expectation and culture of career development and success among northeast Indiana youth and nudging students to progress along a roadmap for multiple advancing career experiences.

Among the strategies: Developing and maintaining a roadmap of resources to guide students and families through career exploration and development; developing a common language and/or visuals to demonstrate how resources connect; convening Collective members regularly to encourage collaboration, and forming sub-groups/projects within the Collective to focus on specific work or goals.

The Collective may champion a work and readiness certificate developed by Junior Achievement for adoption throughout northeast Indiana; use ScholarTrak as a common system for tracking student progression, and "gamify" the career development roadmap.

At some point, the group will determine how to leverage the resources of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) providers: Brightpoint and SCAN.

92 Retention and Expansion Visits Completed: Northeast Indiana Works participated in 92 business retention and expansion visits to employers in 2021, resulting in providing services to 63 employers.

Kim Tempel, senior director of business services/human resources for Northeast Indiana Works, presented at the majority of the visits. Also presenting was **Linda Walczak**, northeast Indiana director of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation; **Sean Ryan**, director of office engagement for Purdue University Fort Wayne, and local economic development officials.

Farrant To Speak at U.S. Census Bureau Forum: **Rick Farrant**, director of communications for Northeast Indiana Works, has been invited to speak at a U.S. Census Bureau virtual workshop focusing on "Making Sense of Data in a New Era."

The three-day Local Employment Dynamics (LED) Partnership event (April 5-7) will largely focus on the bureau's Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) data but will also broadly explore labor market information.

The keynote speaker will be **David Card**, professor of economics at the University of California, Berkeley, and the co-recipient of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 2021.

Farrant will speak on "Mining the Data Gold Mine" and shed light on how workforce development organizations and other organizations can use data to inform key stakeholders, help drive local and regional strategies, and enhance an organization's brand.

Northeast Indiana Works has worked closely with Indiana Department of Workforce Development analysts in compiling and disseminating data derived from the Census Bureau and other sources.

Northeast Indiana Works used LEHD data to report that a growing number of women are entering northeast Indiana's manufacturing and construction workforces. Another LEHD-resourced report released by Northeast Indiana Works indicated young people in northeast Indiana tend to be employed in lower-paying industries.

"We are exposed to an ever-increasing volume and array of workforce and economic data," said **Keith A. Bailey**, the Census Bureau's assistant center chief for Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics Research. "It is imperative that we understand what we can about the origins and constructs of any data in an effort to effectively utilize the information.

"The LED annual workshop," he said, "brings together data partners, researchers, policymakers, and others to share and discuss the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics data and its varied uses in understanding the workforce and its utility in data-driven decision making."

Said Northeast Indiana Works President and CEO **Edmond O'Neal**: "We are excited to share our data application experiences with a national audience. For quite a few years, we have viewed labor market information, especially customized data, as essential to employer engagement and regional strategies covering a broad range of workforce- and economic development-related initiatives."

Farrant will be a panelist April 13 at a four-day National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) forum in Washington, D.C. The panel topic: Virtual Service Delivery. Board Member **Corey Schoon,** director of career development at Garrett-Keyser-Butler Community Schools (GKB) and an owner of Ashley Industrial Molding, will also attend the forum.

Tempel To Attend San Diego Summit: Kim Tempel will attend the ASU+GSU Summit in San Diego April 4-6 along with Board Member **Tonya Weaver**, superintendent of GKB, Schoon, and **Anton King**, executive director of the DeKalb County Economic Development Partnership. The summit, a collaboration of Arizona State University and Global Silicon Valley, connects leading minds focused on transforming society and business around learning and work.

Jobs Listings Added to NEINW Website: Northeast Indiana Works has launched a jobs listing portal on its website.

The portal was made possible, in part, through an agreement with the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership that allows Northeast Indiana Works to use a code developed by the Regional Partnership.

Fort Wayne Marketing, Northeast Indiana Works' marketing partner, modified the code for NEINW's use.

Portal users can utilize a filter to narrow their job searches, including by city, ZIP code, county, industry and type of job. The jobs listings are culled from various data banks, including Indiana Career Connect.

Registered Apprenticeship Coordinator Named: Business Services Representative **Rachel Kerr** has been named registered apprenticeship coordinator for Northeast Indiana Works.

The position is new to Northeast Indiana Works, which is a registered apprenticeship intermediary.

Regional interest in registered apprenticeships is growing. In addition to helping facilitate those apprenticeships, Kerr will be involved with other work experience activities.

Northeast Indiana Works is one of two registered apprenticeship intermediaries in the region. The other is Ivy Tech Community College.

Manufacturing Roundtable Convenes: Northeast Indiana Works, in partnership with the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership, is helping convene and co-facilitate a manufacturing roundtable.

The roundtable is a limited series that brings together business and operational leaders from select northeast Indiana manufacturing firms to identify obstacles, opportunities, and best practices. The goal is to increase safety, innovation, productivity, and growth for regional industrial manufacturers.

Group members include: Intertech Products, Inc. (formally Oji Intertech); Ottenweller Company, Inc.; MasterCraft; WEG Commercial Motors; Rea Magnet Wire Company, Inc.; Tuthill Transfer Systems, and The Ford Meter Box Company, Inc.

Regional Elected Officials' Agreements: Edmond O'Neal has secured Regional Elected Officials' Agreements with county commissioners and the city of Fort Wayne in the 11 counties served by Northeast Indiana Works.

The agreements are in force for five years.

The elected officials have a variety of responsibilities related to Workforce Development Boards (WBD), in this case Northeast Indiana Works. They appoint members to the board; select a Regional Chief Elected Official (RCEO); serve as or designate the fiscal agent for WIOA Title 1 funds, and approve the local budget developed by Northeast Indiana Works.

They also provide workforce-related consultation to the governor.

School, Students Win JAG Awards: A Northeast Indiana school and five students from two schools took home six awards in March from the 2022 Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) State Career Development Conference in Indianapolis.

It was the first time the conference was held in person since 2019.

The regional winners: Northrop High School, first place in social media; **Bailey Bricker**, Northrop, second place in writing; **Erica Yard**, North Manchester Junior-Senior High School, second place in public speaking; **Taylor Brooks**, North Manchester, third place in cover design; **Jackson Austin**, North Manchester, third place in creative solutions, and **Braxton Ream**, North Manchester, third place in career presentations.

JAG is a resiliency-building workforce preparation program that helps students learn in-demand employability skills and provides a bridge to post-secondary education and career advancement opportunities.

JAG is carried out for Northeast Indiana Works by Brightpoint. There are 14 JAG programs involving 13 high schools.

(*The next board meeting will be from 9 to 10:30 a.m. April 1, 2022. It will be in person and virtual.)*