Compendium:

NORTHEAST INDIANA WORKS

Board Newsletter, June 2026

Dear Board Members:

Gov. **Mike Braun** has appointed **Kate Shelby** as the new commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD).

Gov. Braun Appoints New Leader for State Workforce Agency

Before joining DWD as commissioner, she served as chief of staff, chief strategy officer and deputy commissioner of procurement at the Indiana Department of Administration (IDOA), and previously as chief information officer and chief legal counsel at the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT).

Her experience includes managing large-scale procurement and technology portfolios, driving process improvements and cybersecurity initiatives, and negotiating innovative public-private solutions.

Early in her state tenure, Kate was DWD chief operating officer and oversaw teams implementing key workforce initiatives and unemployment insurance fraud protections. The agency was recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor for program integrity leadership.

She is a lawyer by training and served in senior legal roles, including general counsel for a tech and data consulting firm, contract portfolio leader at Eli Lilly & Company, deputy prosecutor in Marion County, and deputy attorney general in the civil litigation division at the Office of the Indiana Attorney General.

Shelby replaces **Josh Richardson**, who is now president of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC).

Schroeder on State Workforce Board: **Rebecca Schroeder**, chair of the Northeast Indiana Works board and president of Whiteshire Hamroc, was among the members attending the first meeting of the Indiana State Workforce Development Board.

The state board is the successor to the Governor's Workforce Cabinet. Schroeder was also a member of the cabinet.

During the May meeting in Plainfield, Indiana, Schroeder said members of the state board discussed board structure, bylaws, upcoming trainings, and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Gov. **Mike Braun** said the board will serve as the central coordinating body to align employers, education and training providers, and state agencies around measurable workforce outcomes.

EWIN Initiative Reconvened: Northeast Indiana Works has begun reconvening the Education Workforce and Innovation Network (EWIN), a regional initiative to support Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.

Attending a meeting in April were **Edmond O'Neal**, president and CEO of Northeast Indiana Works, and **Kim Tempel**, vice president of Northeast Indiana Works. Among the other attendees were representatives of Fort Wayne Community Schools, Grow Allen, Ivy Tech, Greater Fort Wayne Inc., NEI, Region 8 Education Service Center, Area 18 Career and Technical Education Cooperative, Northwest Allen County Schools, Steuben County Economic Development Corporation, and the IMPACT Institute.

The meeting focused on introducing participants to the Hoosiers by the Numbers website and discussing the group's role in supporting career and technical education in northeast Indiana.

Kathy Jaworski, DWD labor market analyst, provided a comprehensive overview of the website's features and data resources available to educators.

Also discussed were potential roles for EWIN, including supporting pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs, coordinating employer outreach, and helping with Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) requirements.

The group explored creating a regional program manual or promotional materials to showcase CTE offerings across the region.

Participants agreed to meet quarterly, with the next meeting planned for September at Northeast Indiana Works in Fort Wayne.

Manufacturing Camps Slated for Ivy Tech: Two Manufacturing Experience camps for middle-schoolers will be conducted in June at Ivy Tech Community College in Fort Wayne.

Northeast Indiana Works has helped facilitate the manufacturing camps in Allen and other counties for the past four years, with help from the Don Wood Foundation, other funders, and community organizations.

The camps at Ivy Tech are part of the college's weeklong STEM camps. More than 70 young people are expected to participate in the manufacturing portions and will experience hands-on learning opportunities related to careers in manufacturing, including welding.

O'Neal Out in the Community: **Edmond O'Neal** attended two meetings arranged by the Don Wood Foundation to discuss system alignment and a new initiative called Learn More Earn More.

O'Neal said Northeast Indiana Works will serve as a leader in ensuring regional workforce alignment in messaging, talent pipeline development and work-based learning efforts. O'Neal serves as the vice chair of the Learn More Earn More Council, which oversees an initiative designed to encourage people to pursue learning beyond high school.

O'Neal also spoke to Fort Wayne Community Schools eighth graders about motivation and self-resiliency in working toward careers and he spoke three times to students at New Haven High School during "Tie Day" events that focused on financial management, healthy lifestyle choices, and goal-setting.

(The next board meeting will be from 9 to 10:30 a.m. June 5, 2026. It will be in person and virtual.)