

THE BIG GOAL COLLABORATIVE

The Big Goal: Increase the number of Northeast Indiana residents with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60% by 2025.

Leaders from our region's top businesses, early childhood learning, school systems, colleges/universities, adult workforce and economic development, foundations, nonprofit organizations, and government are working together like never before to transform our 21st century workforce and build a culture around life-long learning. Recognizing the need to increase the educational attainment of Northeast Indiana residents, these leaders have begun creating a cradle to career civic infrastructure to help improve educational and career outcomes for children and adults in Northeast Indiana. We call it **The Big Goal Collaborative**.

>> What We're Doing

To achieve **The Big Goal**, leaders across the region are working together to create collective impact: aligning organizations' strategies and actions and measuring success by using one uniform set of metrics.

Northeast Indiana leaders who have joined The Big Goal Collaborative aim to:

- Promote a shared community vision of educational achievement
- Use evidence-based decision-making to implement what works for children, youth, and adults across the cradle to career learning journey
- Align actions across multiple organizations to have a greater collective impact than individual organizations working independently



>> Why We're Doing It

The quality of our current and future workforce is in our hands. Indiana ranks 42nd nationally in higher education attainment and 41st in personal per capita income.¹ By 2018, experts predict 60% of jobs in the U.S. will require an associate's or bachelor's degree or higher² — but fewer than 35% of Northeast Indiana residents currently hold a degree or credential.

If we want to achieve large-scale social change to meet this need, leaders from across all sectors must commit to aligning their efforts to create maximum impact in the region. We need to create pathways to prosperity, from cradle to career, to inspire Northeast Indiana residents to strive for excellence and help them achieve their learning and earning potential.

¹Indiana Commission for Higher Education. "Reaching Higher, Achieving More." March 2012. Retrieved from in.gov/che/files/2012_RHAM_3_8_12_Overview.pdf.

²Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. "Help Wanted: Projections of Jobs & Education Requirements Through 2018." June 2010. Retrieved from cew.georgetown.edu/jobs2018.

>> Where We Started

Vision 2020, a regional initiative stewarded by the **Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership**, has united the region around five pillars for economic growth: 21st Century Talent, Competitive Business Climate, Entrepreneurship, Infrastructure, and Quality of Life. In 2011, seven top priorities were established for the region, and The Big Goal was identified as the top priority for the 21st Century Talent Pillar.

Together these pillars focus on transforming the regional economy through implementation of game-changing strategies and changing the story of Northeast Indiana by developing, attracting, and retaining talent.

>> Who's Doing What

- > The **Talent Initiative**, a program of the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership in collaboration with Community Partnerships Inc., is actively convening individuals and groups to form The Big Goal Collaborative.
- > To sustain this effort over the long term, an **Education Leadership Council (ELC)** has been established. It is composed of 35-40 top-level regional leaders across a broad spectrum of fields. The members of the Education Leadership Council:
 - Provide regional oversight and strategic direction for The Big Goal Collaborative
 - Facilitate dialogue between The Big Goal Collaborative members
 - Use data to focus and grow initiatives that work
 - Contribute financial and/or social capital to advance The Big Goal Collaborative's goals and outcomes
 - Act as champions and a resource for the Change Networks
- > Subject matter experts and interested and committed individuals and organizations are forming **Change Networks** around four key areas:
 - Early Childhood Learning
 - High School Completion
 - K-8
 - Post-secondary Completion/Workforce

These networks will focus their efforts on creating and implementing strategies to reach specific outcomes within their areas. Outcomes ultimately will be determined by each Change Network but may include:

- Percentage of children ready to enter kindergarten
- Percentage of students passing 3rd grade reading assessments
- Percentage and number of students passing 3rd grade math assessments
- Percentage and number of students passing 8th grade combined language arts and math assessments
- High school graduation and type of diploma
- Post-secondary degree/credential completion

>> What You Can Do

We believe all cross-sector partners must accept shared accountability for outcomes that occur along the education and career continuum.

- **Businesses** can champion education, share expertise or mentor students by helping them explore careers through classroom and workplace experiences.
- **Educators** can work with other cross-sector partners to devise curricula and teaching practices that work to achieve the outcomes.
- **Non-profits** can collaborate to identify and implement best practices that impact identified community outcomes.
- **Faith-based organizations** can supply mentors, extended learning opportunities and family support.
- **Funders** can encourage collaboration and align their funding strategies with The Big Goal.
- **Parents** can learn about child development, apply effective parenting practices, and foster a love of learning in their children.
- **Civic leaders** can consider educational impact in their decision-making.

For more information or to get involved in The Big Goal Collaborative, call 260.469.3464 or visit www.talentmadehere.com/biggoal.

Education Leadership Council Members

Early Childhood Learning

Madeleine Baker
Pat Zakula

Education

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Dr. Blair Dowden
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Adult Workforce/Education

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Economic Development

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Public Sector

Deputy Mayor Mark Becker
Mayor Thomas Henry
Sen. Dennis Kruse
Dr. Deborah McMahan
Mayor Norm Yoder

Non-Profit/Social Services/ Faith

Pastor Robert Bell
Steve Hoffman
Joe Jordan
John Niederman
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Judy Sorg
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