



NORTHEAST INDIANA
CORPORATE COUNCIL

Action Plan

2007-2009

Updated January 2008

Northeast Indiana Corporate Council Action Plan

The Northeast Indiana Corporate Council (NICC) is a regional group of CEOs whose mission is ***“Promote the common business interests, growth, opportunity and general economic welfare for businesses in northeastern Indiana.”*** The NICC will carry out its mission by working collaboratively with post-secondary educational institutions, governmental bodies / agencies, foundations and institutions linked to its mission in an apolitical manner. *By policy, the NICC will not directly engage in the operations of its collaborative partners.*

To further its mission, the NICC will:

- Encourage economic development in northeast Indiana by identifying current and future business needs. Establish strategic plans to address such needs in order to sustain and expand existing businesses and attract new businesses. We will promote innovation, entrepreneurship and small-business development with a focus on industrial, technological, professional and service clusters important to the long-term economic growth of the region.
- Create a forum for the identification and discussion of significant issues for existing and prospective businesses with the goal of improving the business environment within northeast Indiana; and,
- Establish links with appropriate governmental and quasi-governmental agencies, educational institutions and community organizations to exchange information and develop strategies and plans that will enhance the quality of life and promote economic growth in northeast Indiana.

Current Goals: Building on experience gained in pursuit of goals established from the Corporate Council’s 2004-2005 Action Plan, the following new and refined goals have been established for the 2007-2009 timeframe:

1. Education-Workforce Collaborative

Support the Education & Workforce Collaborative – Northeast Indiana (EWC), which believes a “world class” educational system is a strategic asset for economic development in northeast Indiana, by:

- Developing constructive relationships between regional school corporations and businesses
- Recommending roles for business to enhance developmental learning for pre-K children
- Benchmarking national school models with interested school corporations. We seek to explore models that demonstrate a seamless continuum from early childhood through adult learners.

Initial exploration will include:

- Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) educational programs
- “New Tech” high schools
- Early College model high schools
- Life science educational programs from secondary to post-secondary medical school education

Support greater career education focused on targeted industry clusters through:

- Increasing career major academies in area high schools
- Expanding boot camps for teachers and students
- Encouraging targeted internships
- Expanding Centers of Excellence (Advanced manufacturing and logistics/CONEXUS)
- Increasing industry-specific educational programs as needed

2. Government Reform Initiatives

Support tax reform legislation that is fair and equitable to both business and individual taxpayers

Support the 27-point comprehensive plan for local government reform authored by the Commission on Local Government Reform

Demonstrate business leadership by sponsoring a study by the Community Research Institute intended to define opportunities for greater collaboration among business and community organizations

Encourage and support city/county consolidation efforts with the underlying principle— No duplication of services

3. Other Regional Initiatives

Expand infrastructure capacity and capability through leadership participation in the Regional Planning Collaborative by:

- Improving infrastructure supporting economic development – Roads, water, sewer and industrial parks
- Utilizing Regional Development Authority (RDA) mechanism if required

Support regional economic development strategy

- Secure funding for cluster development, workforce alignment and Innovation Center expansion

Provide ongoing support for:

- Joint Office of University Engagement
- Young Leaders of Northeast Indiana
- Regional health initiatives – Fort-4-Fitness