

# Indiana **WIRED**

Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development • TALENT DRIVING PROSPERITY

---

*“North Central Indiana is among the leading regions in the country for developing workforce innovations. The region is demonstrating innovative solutions to workforce challenges involving K-12 STEM education, an aging workforce, and connecting university assets to industry and worker needs. I applaud Purdue and its partners for the leadership they are showing.”*

*Emily DeRocco, Assistant Secretary  
United States Department of Labor*

---

## Indiana Communities Build Networks for the Future

Indiana, like other states, is facing a major pressure from growing global competition. The old ways of responding are inadequate to the challenges ahead. We need dramatically new regional economic and workforce development strategies.

The U.S. Department of Labor challenged 14 counties in North Central Indiana to become national leaders in meeting these challenges of global competition. Our goal is to find new ways to mobilize existing local groups and strengthen those relationships to benefit an entire region.

Workforce Innovations in Regional Economic Development – or WIRED - is a three-year, \$15 million program that combines the business, civic and educational resources of 14 northwest central Indiana counties (Benton, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Fountain, Fulton, Howard, Miami, Montgomery, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Wabash, Warren and White) along with the region’s colleges and universities, and other key organizations.

**Indiana WIRED** – as the project is known in the Hoosier State – has four components:

**Creating Globally Competitive Industries:** This effort combines university research with existing advanced manufacturing, advanced materials and agribusiness firms to create clusters of innovation to strengthen the competitive position of Hoosier companies.

**Building an Entrepreneurship Super-Region:** The goal here is to develop and grow new business while equipping existing industry with the tools to think and act entrepreneurially. Emerging and existing entrepreneurs – including students – along with community leaders and economic development support organizations collaborate in this effort.

**Developing a Workforce with 21st Century Skills:** This two-pronged initiative focuses on both older and younger workers. We are enhancing the skills of older workers so they can remain employable in the future. At the same time we are deploying educational approaches to strengthen Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) disciplines for K-12 students.

**Weaving Supportive Civic Networks:** To ensure a region’s viability, we must work across organizational and political boundaries. Those boundaries are irrelevant in a global economy that places an emphasis on entrepreneurship, innovation and high performance.

### Learn more:

Contact Peggy Hosea at the WIRED office (765-236-0955) or visit the Web site [www.indiana-wired.net](http://www.indiana-wired.net).