

Going Back to Familiar Places

For two of the stories I had the opportunity to write in this issue, I traveled to Wabash and Batesville. I've been to both communities many, many times (a little more on that later) – and am pleased to be able to share the Wabash County Promise (Page 28) and some equally encouraging education-driven partnerships in Batesville (Page 24).

The critical importance of locally-driven solutions cannot be underestimated. Yes, there are lessons to be learned from best practices. In fact, the dream of the initiators of the Wabash County Promise is an eventual Promise Indiana. But they also know that won't happen without local stakeholders embracing the program and making it their own.

What's the common ingredient in these efforts in Wabash, Batesville and beyond? It's local leadership. The message for others from their actions: We control our own fate. We can make great things happen. We will not be denied.

My reaction: More power to you and all those striving to make a difference.

If you're wondering what took me to the two fine communities noted here, I was actually born in Batesville, grew up 15 miles away in St. Leon and spent more than a few days at the rival of my East Central High School.

Wabash was the second stop on my newspaper career, with service for two-plus years as sports editor of the *Wabash Plain Dealer* newspaper. That run included a bit of a David and Goliath upset to earn the 1986 state high school baseball championship over neighboring Marion.

Good times and lasting memories from both cities. Great programs and exciting progress for both communities today.



All sectors in Wabash – city and county – have come together for the Promise program.

– Tom Schuman, Editor

Your Chance to Weigh In

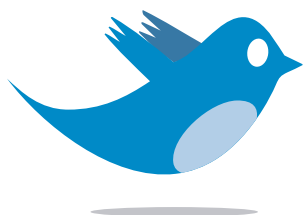
Many say finding qualified workers is their most critical business challenge. That question and related topics are featured in the Indiana Chamber's 2015 Workforce Development Employer Survey. We look forward to gaining your insights.

The 2014 survey, along with Indiana Chamber Foundation research on school counseling, guided the development of several of the Chamber's Ready Indiana initiatives – and the focus of some of the stories in this issue.

Look for the survey link in your inbox on March 4; the survey will close March 20. If you do not receive the March 4 email and are the best person from your Indiana employer to complete the survey, contact Amy Marsh (amarsh@indianachamber.com).

What's Chirping on Tweet Street?

The Indiana Chamber has over 12,300 followers. Are you on the list? Here are some examples of recent activity:



@IndianaChamber

Brinegar: State superintendent needs to be appointed, on same page with governor bit.ly/1Cqk5EK (our column) via @nwi #INLegis

Indiana INTERNnet announces Lilly Endowment funding, outlines plans for more collaboration tiny.cc/yzqftx @IndianaINTERN #internship

Lilly Diabetes making significant global inroads ow.ly/lkTbo (via @IIB) @LillyPad

IN's largest employer of people with vision loss, @Bosmaenterprise, celebrates 100 years of opportunity ow.ly/laKOr (via @IIB)

Grant from @FifthThird to support Southside Indy quality of life study (press conf. tmrw morning) ow.ly/174ff

Get tix now for our March 11 Legislative Dinner featuring former White House press secretary Jay Carney <http://ow.ly/15AHj> #INLegis

What others are saying to – or about – the Indiana Chamber:

@CI_ASE: Great speaker lineup at IN Safety & Health Conference! Register at: hubs.ly/y0qLpS0 @IndianaChamber@GibsonInsurance #INSafety15

@h4qed: @IndianaChamber testifying in support of HB 1609. Not a new idea. Chamber has supported this for over 30 years, whether SPI is Rep or Dem

@ScottElliott_IN: Everyone at #INHouse Ed Cmte is for a tax credit for teachers buying supplies: unions, @IndianaChamber, IDOE, etc.

@SunKingBrewing: @IndianaChamber @3floyds Thank you for the support! #SupportINBrewers

@readyindiana: Excited to visit @NobSchools today to feature their robust #internship program in @IndianaChamber BizVoice mag, Mar/Apr issue. Look for it!

@ericweddle: @IndianaChamber hires new education lobbyist Caryl Auslander, former Lugar staffer & Verizon gov affairs director bit.ly/1wxzOxW