

State of Indiana

Governor's Workforce Cabinet

Thursday June 27, 2024

Cabinet Meeting Minutes – Greenwood / Region 5

Endress + Hauser USA

2355 Endress Place
Greenwood, IN 46143

I. Call to Order

The Governor's Workforce Cabinet met in regular session starting at 10:00 a.m. ET at Endress + Hauser USA – 2355 Endress Place, Greenwood, IN 46143 – with Chairman Ryan Kitchell presiding.

Member Introduction & Roll Call

Present: Tony Denhart, Dr. Sue Ellspermann, Sherm Johnson, Loren King, Ryan Kitchell, Chris Lowery, Richard Paulk, Courtney Penn, Dan Peterson, Marilyn Pitzulo, Sen. Jeff Raatz, Salena Scardina, Amish Shah, Tony Vespa, Micha Vincent

Remote: Jody French, Joyce Irwin, Dr. Chuck Johnson, Theresa Koleszar, Becca McCuaig, Fred Payne, Todd Richardson, Steve Schreckengast, Rebecca Schroeder, Dave Shane

Regrets: David Adams, Jaqueline Barton, Rep. Bob Behning, Rob Coons, Megan Glover, Dr. Katie Jenner, Mark Kara, Paul Ketcham, Chri LaMothe, Dr. Steve Rogers

GWC Executive Staff: Whitney Ertel, Fran Valentine

II. Consideration of the Minutes

Chairman Kitchell asked for a motion to approve the GWC meeting minutes from April 25, 2024, in Region 1/Merrillville. The minutes were unanimously approved by the Cabinet.

III. Opening Comments

Chairman Kitchell thanked Endress + Hauser USA for hosting the meeting and invited representatives to welcome the Cabinet. Todd Lucey, General Manager; Marisol Sanchez, Vice President and General Counsel; and Brandyn Ferguson, Vice President of Human Resources, welcomed the group and gave background information on Endress + Hauser USA, a global industrial process engineering company. Chairman Kitchell reviewed the agenda for the meeting and invited Claire Fiddian-Green to begin the presentations.

IV. iLab Indiana Youth Apprenticeship Overview

Claire Fiddian-Green, President and CEO of the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation, provided an update to the Cabinet on the work of the iLab initiative. The initiative aims to develop a new high-quality pathway that is based on employer-led training to help prepare young people for careers and meet the needs of employers. The collaborative includes a cross-section of over 150 partners from

industry, K12, higher education, government, intermediaries, and the nonprofit sector. The group has learned best practices from five pilot sites in Indiana, as well as a research institute studying the system in Switzerland. The learnings and accompanying next steps will be compiled into a report that is to be released at the end of August.

V. Positively Disrupting Indiana’s Labor Productivity

Chairman Kitchell next welcomed Dr. Phil Powell, PhD, Executive Director of the Indiana Business Research Center, to present current research on Indiana’s economy and labor productivity trends. Dr. Powell explained that productivity drives prosperity and suggests that policy discussions should focus on increasing productivity to produce the outcomes we want for Hoosiers and the economy. While Indiana has lagged in productivity in the past, in recent years, productivity rates in Indiana have increased beyond those of the nation as a whole. Recent initiatives have helped to improve Indiana’s standing, and Dr. Powell highlighted four ways to continue to grow labor productivity: better education, better technology, better infrastructure, and better management.

VI. Higher Education Funding Formula

Chairman Kitchell invited Seth Hinshaw, Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Financial Officer of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education to conduct the final presentation on Indiana’s higher education funding formula. Indiana ranks highly among states for producing postsecondary graduates who complete their degrees within six years, however, the state ranks much lower for retaining those graduates within Indiana. To address this gap, CHE has included graduate retention as a component of its outcomes-based performance funding model for higher education institutions.

VII. Federal Workforce Updates

Executive Director Whitney Ertel shared some updates from the federal level. GWC received approval from the Department of Labor for its Cabinet membership to serve as the State Workforce Board. Indiana’s Unified State Plan under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was also approved. GWC staff is continuing to monitor activity in the federal legislature around the reauthorization of WIOA as well as Workforce Pell.

VIII. Final Remarks

Chairman Kitchell thanked Cabinet members for their attendance, as well as each of the speakers for their time. He reminded members that next meeting would be held in August in Evansville at Old National Bank. Finally, this was the final meeting for two members who have completed their terms on the Cabinet – Robert A Coons, President of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology; and Todd Richardson, Vice President and Chief Human Resource Officer. Chairman Kitchell thanked them for their service and engagement.

IX. Adjournment – 12:00 p.m. ET