



NEWS RELEASE

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Department of Workforce Development announces partnership to begin revamping workforce and economic information systems

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) announced today that it will partner with the Indiana Business Research Center (IBRC) and Center for Urban Policy and the Environment to assess the information needs and perceptions of current and prospective users of Indiana workforce and economic information. The assessment marks the first step in a series of initiatives by the state and DWD to better understand the needs of information users and to design more comprehensive and customer-driven information systems.

Ron Stiver, Commissioner for the Department of Workforce Development, stated, “Good information drives good decision-making. We are pleased to partner with the IBRC and Center for Urban Policy and the Environment in leading the charge to revamp the state's information collection, analysis and reporting efforts, which will enable local and state stakeholders to make more informed decisions when investing in workforce and economic development.”

The partnership will include conducting several focus groups with information users across the state, an extensive on-line survey and a benchmarking exercise, all designed to collect input from a broad and deep cross-section of information users. The completed needs assessment will then serve as a blueprint for DWD in designing more innovative and responsive workforce and economic information systems.

The IBRC is based at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business and has been involved in economic and demographic data gathering and analysis for 80 years. The IBRC is also Indiana's official representative to the United States Census Bureau.

The Center for Urban Policy and the Environment is an applied research organization in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). Its mission includes working with organizations and government agencies to develop data-based solutions to problems.

Carol Rogers, of the Indiana Business Research Center, agrees that this new partnership will improve customer service. “The goal of this partnership is to listen to our customers and redesign the current venues displaying labor market information around their needs and enable users to attain the most accurate and essential information.”

John Krauss, Director of the Center for Urban Policy and the Environment, is excited about the announcement of the new partnership. “This partnership is an innovative approach to determine what types of data are useful to policymakers and employers. The ultimate goal of the project will be to enhance Indiana's ability to attract businesses and provide good jobs.”

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