

EcO Network Collaborative Regional Strategies Contribute to Improvements in Educational Attainment in Southeast Indiana



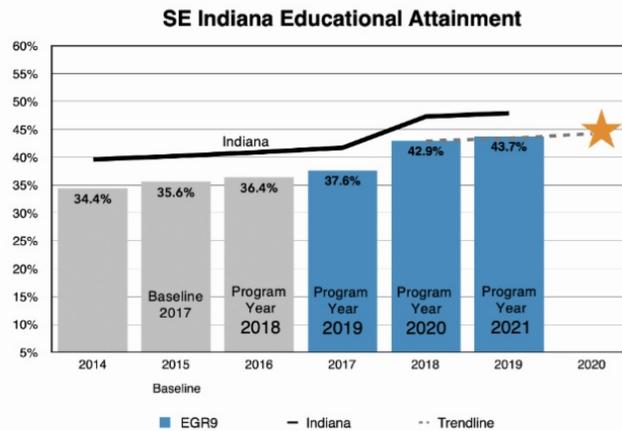
The Community Education Coalition and its largest regional initiative, the EcO Network of Southeast Indiana, were among twenty six communities nation wide to receive designation as a 'Talent Hub'. Since the designation in 2017, EcO Network has facilitated work across sectors with postsecondary and adult education partners, cultivating new strategies to support students facing barriers that could derail their educational goals.

Together EcO Network and its partners have taken bold action, changing outcomes for learners, and significantly increasing the number of people with college degrees or other credentials beyond a high school diploma. Helping meet the region's urgent need for talent.

Goal of 44.4% Educational Attainment Within Reach

Educational Attainment of adults, ages 25 to 64, is increasing at a faster pace since the launch of co-created strategies

This metric includes industry certifications, postsecondary certificates and degrees



EcO Network
Goal
44.4%
by 2022



Vision
60.0%
by 2025

Source: US Census, ACS, 5 yr. est. and Lumina Foundation Stronger Nation Report



Through co-created strategies and collaboration facilitated by EcO Network, focused on improving educational opportunities and supports for adult students, the region's educational attainment rate is increasing faster than was projected back in 2017. At that time the EcO Network and partners set a goal of reaching 44.4% attainment by 2022.

What seemed like an almost insurmountable task is now within reach. Educational attainment, shown above as a percentage of Southeast Indiana's adult residents with credentials beyond high school, increased 8.1% from 2017 to 2021 and continues to rise.

More People are Earning Credentials Aligned with Workforce Demand

Goal achieved ✓

More people are earning certifications, certificates and degrees through regional education partner institutions



Source: EcO Network Partner Data Reports

Identifying educational pathways connected to workforce demand helps meet employers need for talent, and supports individuals seeking education to advance their careers. The number of people earning high-value industry certifications, postsecondary certificates and degrees increased more than 68% from 2017 to 2020.

With 2,440 people earning credentials from southeast Indiana's regional college campuses and adult education providers, we exceeded our goal of 1,940 by more than 500 people in academic year 2019-2020.

We believe aligning education with workforce not only builds the talent pipeline needed by regional employers, it also propels individuals along career pathways leading to living wage occupations and economic mobility.

Summary of Co-Created Regional Strategies

Strengthening Educational Pathways

- Powerhouse Credential Crosswalk
- New workforce training classes
- Low-income adult workforce training scholarships
- Expanded IT pathways

Systems Building

- EcO Network Data Consortium
- EcO Network regional meetings; 2021 focused on the digital divide
- Employer engagement

Supports for Latinx Students

- Ivy Tech Columbus' Bilingual Student Success Coach
- ELL class expansion with McDowell Education Center
- Latinx community outreach with Vecinas de Enlace Program of Su Casa Columbus and Family School Partners
- Equipment for workforce training in Spanish at Su Casa Columbus

Student Success

- Gateway Community of Practice: faculty and supplemental instruction student leader professional development
- Virtual training for Adult Education teachers
- United Way community resources for students

Regional Education Partners

- Ivy Tech Community College Columbus, Madison, Lawrenceburg/Batesville
 - Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus (IUPUC)
 - Purdue Polytechnic Columbus
 - McDowell Education Center
 - Jennings County Education Center
 - River Valley Resources, Inc.
 - Su Casa Columbus
 - Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Adult Education
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Strategy: Strengthening Educational Pathways

Powerhouse Credentials Crosswalk

25 Industry Certifications ➡

We mapped high-value, in-demand industry certifications into:

- 45 postsecondary certificates
- 25 associate degrees
- 5 bachelor's degrees
- 6 regional postsecondary campuses



To strengthen educational pathways, and to make the pathway from industry certification to college degree visible, we created the Powerhouse Credentials Crosswalk.

We worked closely with education and workforce partners for more than a year to map 25 high-demand certifications into college degrees.

These certifications have power to change lives because they are obtainable in a short amount of time, align with workforce demand, and offer college credit toward degrees that are offered through regional postsecondary institutions. Allowing residents to continue their education close to home.

Student Success Story

Raymond's success story began when he enrolled in a welding class with River Valley Resources, one of many regional classes supported and launched through the Talent Hub.

While Raymond gained skills as a welder he also earned his high school equivalency diploma. His teachers told him he'd pass the welding exam with "flying colors" and they were right!

Through the class Raymond was connected with employers for interviews and is now working in Batesville, IN.



The Equity Imperative

What educational equity means to us:

- Increased educational access, attainment, and success
 - Improved economic vitality; all citizens possess skills and education to be self-sufficient
 - Learners receive what they need to develop their full academic and social potential, regardless of their starting point in life
 - Advancing educational outcomes for Latinx learners and low-income learners
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Strategy: Supporting Latinx College Students and Adult Learners

Latinx Commit to Finish with Bilingual Student Success Coach

Latinx Enrollments  17%



100+ Latinx Students Coached at Ivy Tech Columbus

Ivy Tech Community College Columbus expanded their Commit to Finish program and added a bilingual student success coach to support college students who self-identify as Latinx, contributing to an increase of 17% in enrollments of Latinx students from 2018 to 2020.

English Language Learner Class Expansion

Enrollments  34%



With **student learning gains** consistently above target

To meet the needs of the growing Latinx population, **McDowell Education Center** expanded their English Language Learner (ELL) classes into neighboring Jackson County and into Bartholomew County Latinx communities, contributing to an increase in ELL enrollments of 34% from 2016 to 2020.

Strategy: Supporting Student Success



The **Gateway Community of Practice** is a collaboration of IUPUC and Ivy Tech Columbus, facilitated by IUPUC's Center for Teaching and Learning, that supports student success on the AirPark Columbus College Campus through two major methods.

Supplemental Instruction (SI) to improve student outcomes in first year courses

- 57 SI faculty trained
- 40 SI student leaders trained
- Implemented in 38 different courses
- Supporting 1,890 students

Faculty professional development regarding high-impact strategies and improved pedagogy

- 920 hours of faculty professional development provided
 - 650 registrants
 - 16 Gateway Fellows
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Strategy: Increasing Employer Engagement in SE Indiana

Achieve your Degree

2018 to 2020



From 11 to 89 companies enrolling employees in pathways

Workforce Education and Innovation

2018 to 2020



From 0 to 14 companies enrolling employees in pathways

Leveraging existing employer engagement strategies within the system contributed to increases in training and postsecondary enrollments, advancing the educational attainment of Hoosiers living and working in southeast Indiana.

Source: Eco Network Partner Data Reports



Ivy Tech Community College Columbus, Madison, and Lawrenceburg/Batesville significantly increased the number of employers participating in Achieve Your Degree programs, providing educational opportunities for incumbent workers.

Adult Education Providers leveraged Indiana's Workforce Education and Innovation program to increase the number of companies enrolling workers in customized training classes.

These ongoing partnerships maintain continuous enrollment opportunities for the employees of partner companies.



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