



Updates from the South Bend – Elkhart Regional Partnership

On Thursday, February 24th, the South Bend – Elkhart Regional Partnership and the Regional Development Authority welcomed the Indiana Economic Development Corporation’s (IEDC) READI implementation team to the South Bend – Elkhart region to learn more about our [Smart, Connected, Communities 2030 plan](#) (our READI proposal) and gain a deeper understanding of how our region’s economic development is organized.

The IEDC team attended meetings over the course of the day, two of which we hosted at Regional Cities Initiative project locations, the [Howard Park Community Center](#) in downtown South Bend and [Hotel Elkhart](#) in downtown Elkhart.

The South Bend – Elkhart region kicked off the day at Howard Park with a presentation from South Bend – Elkhart READI Steering Committee representatives sharing specifics around the region’s economic development strategies including talent attraction and retention, quality of place and life, industry growth, education and workforce, entrepreneurship, and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The day concluded with a roundtable discussion with Mayors and Commissioners from across the region at Hotel Elkhart. During this time, the IEDC team provided an overview of the program, both what has transpired since the award announcements and what lies ahead. This informal conversation provided the opportunity for all in attendance to ask questions directly to the IEDC and share feedback.

Accompanied by the South Bend – Elkhart Regional Partnership’s Chief Strategy Officer, [Bethany Hartley](#), the IEDC team also received a windshield tour of many Regional Cities Initiative projects that have been completed to showcase not only the region’s ability to successfully execute, but the add-on development that came from Regional Cities activities.

These Regional Cities projects included the South Bend Blue Ways ([Notre Dame Boat House](#) and [Howard Park](#)), [Studebaker Building 84 and 113](#), [Potawatomi Zoo](#), [The Mill at Ironworks Plaza](#), [Ironworks Phase II at Beutter Park](#), [Elkhart Health and Aquatics Center](#), and [River Point West \(River District\)](#). The IEDC team also received an overview of Regional Cities projects completed in Marshall County including the [REES Theatre](#), [Marshall County Manufacturing Centers](#), and the [Marshall County Aquatics Center \(Susan Bardwell Aquatics Center\)](#).

To view photos, [click here](#). For more READI information and updates, please visit the South Bend – Elkhart region’s [READI landing page here](#).



DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business [launched the DEI Grow the Good in Business Case Competition](#) in collaboration with the State of Indiana. Students participating in the Case Competition will be tasked with examining the disproportionate impact of socioeconomic challenges on communities across Indiana and proposing a business solution to the wealth gap. [Read more here.](#)

HustleSBE [Cohort Four graduates](#) received \$10,000 in direct capital to fund their plans they developed during the twelve-session program, which concluded in December 2021. Grant applicants submitted financial information, current business needs, and details on how they plan to use the resources disused in HustleSBE. To date, HustleSBE has allocated \$29,000 in funding to 35 regional entrepreneurs for training, new equipment, software upgrades, and marketing material.

Related News

- [March 8th International Women's Day: Business Data Sources Workshop](#)
- [SOCAP21: Inclusive Wealth Creation: Reimagining Real Estate to Profit Renters, Communities, and Investors](#)
- [Why Luke Cooper is launching a history-minded, Black founder-focused VC fund](#)



TALENT ATTRACTION & RETENTION

Talent Attraction and Retention

Telling Our Story is the top priority for the Talent committee. Work is underway on a three-part video series featuring regional residents that will be released in advance of the new school year starting in Fall of 2022.

Exceptional talent development and retention opportunities abound across the region and state, including the application for the [Mitch Daniels Leadership Foundation Fellowship](#) which closes March 1st. The [Michiana 40 under 40 nominations](#) are currently open until March 25th. Nominate your company's young professionals today!

If your company is looking to secure talented interns for the summer, post the opportunities to the statewide database, [Work and Learn Indiana](#).

Related News

- [South Bend – The City Owned by Locals](#)
- [Indiana lawmakers consider offering remote workers \\$15,000 to move here under Senate Bill 361](#)
- [Elkhart Community Foundation donors set record in 2021](#)



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Entrepreneurship

Unlike the weather, the entrepreneurship activity in the South Bend – Elkhart region is heating up! South Bend startup [SAFA was awarded a \\$20,000 investment](#) from the Elevate Ventures' [Community Ideation Fund](#), which they plan to use to develop a minimal viable product and recruit software developer talent.

In addition, [Elevate Ventures](#) announced [Indiana companies received \\$748,000 in funding](#) from their Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) matching program. Local companies that received a portion of this Phase I matching funding included: [Manufacturing Technology, Inc.](#), [Polar Clean, LLC](#), [SIMBA Chain, Inc.](#), [Third Coast Federal, Inc.](#), and [Trek10, Inc.](#)

Speaking of SBIR/STTR, the South Bend – Elkhart Regional Partnership has partnered with Dave Temeles of Third Coast Federal to lead an [SBIR/STTR Seminar Series: Intro to SBIR/STTR](#).

Related News

- [Janus Motorcycles of Goshen Named Indiana Chamber's Coolest Thing Made in Indiana](#)
- [Proposals could give South Bend one of the largest indoor farming campuses in the Midwest](#)
- [Ivy Tech School of Entrepreneurship Helps Small Business Owners Thrive](#)



INDUSTRY GROWTH

Industry Growth

Understanding the Journey Our Goods Take and Building a More Resilient Regional Supply Chain

According to INC. magazine, "journey" was last year's biggest corporate buzzword. Many of the challenges associated with our journey through COVID have been related to the journey our goods take through the supply chain. The South Bend – Elkhart Regional Partnership is looking for your input as we seek to understand challenges and identify collaborative ways to bring resilience and diversity to our regional supply chain.

The supply chain journey is being addressed from many angles. South Bend International Airport is eager to help regional firms avoid clogged ports by bringing air cargo directly into the region. The Partnership is participating in both statewide and regional freight studies and plans (see survey below). The Partnership also plans to launch a Supply Chain Cluster Analysis this year. If you'd like to have your voice heard and keep your organization at the forefront of regional efforts to build more resilient supply chains, contact Dan Buckenmeyer at dbuckenmeyer@southbendelkhart.org.

Related News

- If your inputs journey from another country you should consider using the Foreign Trade Zone, FTZ 125, to potentially defer or even eliminate many duties and fees. Contact FTZ125@southbendelkhart.org.
- When you journey outside the region, South Bend International Airport connects you to the globe as the most convenient, efficient, and often cost-effective connection. Learn more at projectpropel.com.
- Truck drivers journey through our region and know best what can be done to improve mobility. They can provide their input to the MACOG Regional Freight Mobility Plan with [this two-minute survey](#)



Education and Workforce

Since the launch of the [LIFT Network Apprenticeship Program](#) in November of 2021 momentum continues. In January, a USDOL Registered Apprenticeship Employer Information Session was held in Elkhart County, IN. The South Bend - Elkhart Regional Partnership in collaboration with the [Northern Indiana Workforce Board](#) partnered with the [RV Technical Institute](#) to host RV employers to learn more about the apprenticeship program opportunities. Interest expressed from the four attending RV OEM employers focused on CNC machining, industrial maintenance, and RV service.

This month, Marson International and WorkOne of Northern Indiana hosted an onsite hiring event on February 23rd featuring the LIFT Network Registered Apprenticeship Program and job opportunities paying \$20+ per hour. The hiring event featured openings for registered apprenticeship programs within industrial maintenance and robotics technology, in which prospective apprentices will gain skills in technology, digital manufacturing and overall production leadership. The company has shared that the opportunities are a good way for individuals who may be recent high school graduates and/or individuals currently working in the manufacturing industry that are interested in gaining skills relevant to the future of the industry.

Related News

- [Healthcare Sector Update: Crisis to Opportunity](#)

We look forward to sharing the good news with you every month! If you want more than just a monthly update, visit the [News](#) and [Events](#) pages of our website or follow us on social media.

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Have feedback? Please contact us at info@southbendelkhart.org.