

**From:** [Moore, Erin](#)  
**To:** [Moore, Erin](#)  
**Subject:** UPDATE: East Central Indiana Talent Collaborative  
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**Dear East Central Indiana Talent Region stakeholders,**

## It's Official!

Congratulations to everyone involved in securing the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Talent Region designation on January 21<sup>st</sup>! It was an impressive effort across seven counties – Delaware, Grant, Henry, Jay, Rush, Randolph, and Wayne. We are thankful that more than 100 people from across the region joined the virtual event. Additionally, we are incredibly pleased to share that Fayette County is developing a workforce development coalition and plans to join the Talent Region in the next few months.

If you missed the event or want more information about the work that has already been done, check out these resources:

- Overview of Priorities and Goals: <http://forgeeci.com/ecitc>
- Press Release and Designation Recording: [Office of Career Connections and Talent newsletter](#)
- [Regional Goals, Ecosystem, and Data Dashboard](#)

## Ready, Set, Go!

Becoming an official 21<sup>st</sup> Century Talent Region was simply the starting point for the work we will do together as a region. As we are fond of saying, we have one foot over the starting line and have just begun the work of building the East Central Indiana Talent Collaborative infrastructure.

You can expect monthly updates from us as the Talent Collaborative begins to take shape. These updates will feature news about the Talent Collaborative's membership and structure, progress towards our goals, opportunities to get involved, and resources available to your community.

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To ensure we are building a truly collaborative initiative, **we challenge you to share this update with at least 3 other stakeholders in your county and/or sector.** If you received this email from a colleague and want to receive future updates directly, contact Erin Moore at [eemoore2@bsu.edu](mailto:eemoore2@bsu.edu).

## Collective Impact Approach

The ECI Talent Collaborative has adopted a collective impact approach, adhering to five core principles:

- Design and implement the initiative with a **priority placed on equity**
- **Include community members** in the collaborative
- **Use data** to continuously learn, adapt, and improve
- Develop a culture that fosters **relationships, trust, and respect** across participants
- Build customized solutions informed by our **local context**

Collective impact initiatives utilize a backbone organization responsible for building relationships, ensuring strategic alignment across groups, communicating continuously, coordinating data gathering, providing research support, and advising on available resources.

Ball State's Office of Community Engagement has agreed to serve as the Talent Collaborative's backbone as part of the university's strategic commitment to the region. OCE's Delaina Boyd and Erin Moore received an internal grant to hire Lauralee Hites and Caitlin Fleenor of [Stratavize Consulting](#) to help establish the Talent Collaborative's collective impact structure.

## What's Next?

Stratavize is currently working with ECI counties that want to form a new or revitalize an existing [workforce development coalition](#). They also are helping to launch the Talent Collaborative's Guiding Team and Regional Cradle-to-Career Coalitions. Their support to counties includes:

- Assistance with identifying and engaging appropriate key stakeholders for the coalition.
- Agenda setting and facilitation of the first two coalition meetings.
- Resources for carrying the work forward, in alignment with your county's stated objectives.

If you want to connect with your county's coalition, please contact Stratavize's Caitlin Fleenor ([caitlin@stratavize.com](mailto:caitlin@stratavize.com)).

Thank you for joining us on this journey as we pursue shared prosperity for East Central Indiana's future. While this work is neither simple nor fast, it is vital to the success of our region. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions or would like additional information. We are grateful to have the opportunity to partner with you!

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