

East Central Indiana Talent Collaborative

May 2021 Update

Dear ECITC Partner,

Things are really **heating up** around regional collaboration this month. Read on for details. And be sure to scroll to the end for a highly anticipated webinar coming up on June 17th!

What are we building?

There are many moving parts of the Talent Collaborative. We often refer to **this graphic** to remind ourselves how all of the pieces fit together. The success of this structure relies on trust-building and active engagement among all participants.

Click on the image to view a larger version.



Introducing the guiding team

The Guiding Team is the Talent Collaborative's central steering committee, working across counties and sectors to set the strategic vision and support our collective work.

The team has met regularly over the last few months to build relationships, learn about areas of experience and expertise, and begin to chart a long-term course for the Collaborative.

Guiding Team Members:

- **Corey Murphy**, New Castle Economic Development Corporation, representing ECI local economic development.
- **Alisa Winters**, Rush County Community Foundation, representing community foundations
- **Mike Row**, Eastern Indiana Works, representing workforce development
- **Tom Kinghorn**, George and Frances Ball Foundation, representing regional philanthropy
- **Mindy Kenworthy**, East Central Indiana Regional Partnership

Lauralee Hites and Caitlin Fleenor of Stratavize Consulting serve as facilitators. Delaina Boyd and Erin Moore from Ball State's Office of Community Engagement participate as backbone support.

Call to Action:

The guiding team members welcome input from Talent Collaborative stakeholders. Feel free to reach out and share your thoughts and ideas!

 **Great progress by county coalitions**

The county coalitions play a key role in the Talent Collaborative. Their important county-level work will influence and accelerate outcomes in our regional coalitions.

And boy, have they been busy this month – five meetings across four counties! These groups are highly engaged and laying the groundwork for long-term success.



Lauralee and Caitlin have been impressed with the levels of collaboration and creativity as they help coalitions create identity statements and high-level strategies to address their biggest challenges. Approaches include changing the mindset about what constitutes a “good job” and ensuring equitable access to resources and programs.

Next, each group will develop short-term and long-term tactics to implement their strategies.

Call to Action:

Don't miss out! Contact [Caitlin Fleenor](#) to get connected with your county's coalition.

 **Speaking of regional coalitions...**

We are “this close” to getting the regional coalitions underway! As a reminder, these coalitions will bring together representatives from multiple counties to work together on increasing educational success and attainment across four age groups:

- Birth-5
- Kindergarten – 8th grade
- High school
- Adult and higher education

Call to Action:

If you are interested in participating in one of these groups, please contact [Caitlin Fleenor](#).



Ready for READI

In case you haven't heard, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation announced the **Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative** (READI) on May 3. The state is dedicating \$500 million to promote strategic regional investments in quality of place and opportunity, innovation, entrepreneurship, and talent attraction and development.

To apply for up to \$50 million in state funding, counties, cities, and towns must work together to develop a regional vision and collective plan. 21st Century Talent Regions (like us!) are encouraged to apply.

The East Central Indiana Talent Collaborative is working closely with our region's economic development organizations to develop a plan to pursue READI funding.

Call to Action:

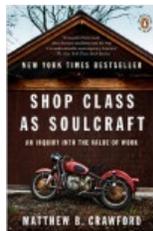
Learn more about the READI initiative [here](#).

Fuel for Thought

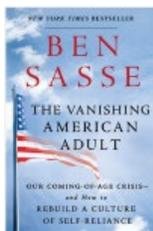
Book Recommendations

In future newsletters, we will highlight books, websites, podcasts, and other resources that can help us think creatively about talent attraction, development and connection.

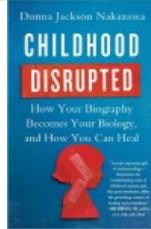
To get us going, Lauralee Hites shared these three book titles. She says, "These books are almost guaranteed to spark conversation! While I don't agree with every word in these titles, I do believe that often the best solutions come from the most unexpected places."



Shop Class as Soulcraft by Matthew B. Crawford
Called "the sleeper hit of the publishing season" by *The Boston Globe*, *Shop Class as Soulcraft* became an instant bestseller, attracting readers with its radical (and timely) reappraisal of the merits of skilled manual labor.



The Vanishing American Adult by Ben Sasse
In an era of safe spaces, trigger warnings, and an unprecedented election, the country's youth are in crisis. Senator Ben Sasse warns the nation about the existential threat to America's future.



Childhood Disrupted by Donna Jackson Nakazawa
A groundbreaking book showing the link between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and adult illnesses such as heart disease, autoimmune disease, and cancer—*Childhood Disrupted* also explains how to cope with these emotional traumas and even heal from them.

News to Use

Data Summit on Race, Ethnicity, and Ancestry

Hosted by the U.S. Census Bureau, this free virtual webinar will highlight several data tools that can be used to better understand the demographics and economic characteristics of the communities you serve. The summit will be held on **Thursday, June 17 at 2 pm.**

Due to interest for this topic, be sure to register early: [Summit registration](#).

For information about upcoming free data webinars through August 2021, [sign up here](#).



Do you have news to share?

Share your good work related to talent attraction, talent development, and talent connection. Send details and photos to [Erin Moore](#) for an upcoming update.

Delaina Boyd and Erin Moore

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