

## Economic Growth Region 11

*Serving Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Perry, Posey, Pike, Spencer, Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties*

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### INTERSTATE 69: INNOVATION CORRIDOR

Workforce development and securing the training that will match worker skills with employer needs are among the issues moving to the forefront with the completion of the first leg of Interstate 69 that extends the transportation link southward toward Evansville. The celebration of the opening of the highway segment earlier this month was hardly finished when representatives of various government, business, higher education, non-profit and economic development organizations started to gather information for a plan of how best to maximize the impact of the new highway. The new EVV-Crane I-69 Innovation Corridor Consortium moved quickly form sub-groups that will delve into topics includ-

ing, branding, civic collaboration, innovation and entrepreneurship. Another focus is ensuring that area universities are teaching the skills that prospective new business will require of their workforce. These groups are tasked with writing reports on approaches to address each strategic priority, with the larger organization reconvening periodically to review progress. Led by University of Southern Indiana's Division of Outreach and Engagement, the consortium earlier received data showing that the I 69 Corridor region has experienced below-average growth in key indicators of economic success over the last 30 years. The consortium plans to undertake a focused and collaborative approach to reverse this trend.

### INTERNSHIP GUIDANCE AND INTERN RECRUITMENT

If you're looking to create an internship program or fill your existing internship openings, Indiana INTERNnet provides the network and resources you need. Indiana INTERNnet is the statewide internship matching program managed by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. It is a FREE service linking Indiana employers with prospective interns, and the goal is to help create or expand high-quality experiential opportunities within Indiana in order to retain talent.

If your organization is new to internships, the following are benefits to consider: Interns can increase productivity and reduce recruiting costs; Interns bring new ideas, fresh perspectives and knowledge of the latest technology; Interns can help complete projects that have been put on the backburner.

The program is both high-tech and high-touch. The website, [www.IndianaINTERN.net](http://www.IndianaINTERN.net) is a dynamic, searchable database showcasing nearly 12,000 active student profiles, and an internship hotline (317-264-6852) is available for employers and internship-seekers needing 1:1 assistance. Non-profit and government organizations looking to expand staff through interns should review our new partnership. This spring, Indiana INTERNnet and the Indiana Commission for Higher Education's newly revamped [EARN Indiana program](http://www.EARNIndiana.org) will come together to promote experiential education. Through the program, students with financial need will have access to paid internships, while employers receive state-matching funds in exchange for hiring qualifying students. To learn how to begin an internship program, contact Janet Boston (317) 264-6862 or email [jboston@indianachamber.com](mailto:jboston@indianachamber.com).

### SIMULATED HEAVY EQUIPMENT TRAINING

Heavy equipment training at the Vincennes University Gibson County Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Logistics is providing students with the skills required for jobs in underground mining, surface mining, construction and other related industries. Funded by a community-based training grant, the classes were developed to teach students how to apply the principles of mining methods, operation and procedures, in a controlled laboratory environment. The primary focus of the course is the safety aspects of operating end dump trucks, front end loaders, roof bolters, and shuttle car operations. Simulators allow students to develop basic operation skills of the equipment without having to actu-

ally be at a work site. Additionally, computer-based training provides a general understanding of important safety and machine operation functions. The programs are taught by certified instructors who have more than 25 years of real world experience to supplement the simulator and computer training. VU's Gibson County Center, located at 8100 U.S. 41 in Ft. Branch, offers manufacturing and logistics programs, as well as general education courses. The center is staffed by certified, licensed faculty and staff with both industry experience and instruction. More information about the training classes can be obtained from Greg Gibson at [Ggibson@vinu.edu](mailto:Ggibson@vinu.edu).

### Did you know....

- In Region 11, 150 companies have registered and posted internship opportunities in Indiana INTERNnet
- 793 students in Region 11 are actively seeking internships through Indiana INTERNnet

### Upcoming Events:

#### Business Seminars: When to Counsel & When to Let Go

- March 7, 2013  
WorkOne Southwest  
700 E. Walnut St.  
Evansville, IN 47710  
7:30am-9am CST  
To register please contact Joe Rapp'e  
[jrappe@dwd.in.gov](mailto:jrappe@dwd.in.gov)

- March 28, 2013  
VU Jasper Campus  
850 College Ave  
Jasper, IN 47546  
7:30am-9am EST  
To register please contact  
Nancy Schroering  
[nschroering@vinu.edu](mailto:nschroering@vinu.edu)

#### Keeping it Legal While Interviewing Candidates, EEOC, Criminal Background Checks, & Social Media

- March 21, 2013  
Vincennes University  
Gibson Campus  
7:30am—9am CST  
To register please contact the Gibson County Chamber of Commerce  
[office@gibsoncountychamber.org](mailto:office@gibsoncountychamber.org)

### Contact:

For more information on mentioned programs please contact:

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