



## Commitment of Education Partners

The *READY NWI* K-12 and Higher Education Partners of the seven counties of Northwest Indiana (Lake, Porter, La Porte, Jasper, Newton, Pulaski, and Starke) commit to preparing all students in the region to enter higher education, succeed in higher education, and acquire the credentials needed for employment in high-quality jobs in the region. At its core, *READY NWI* is a pledge to match each student's career goals with appropriate information, preparation, and counseling to enable higher education and career success. Education partners also commit to increased partnerships with regional employers and their associations to provide relevant information and work-based learning opportunities for all students and for the teachers, counselors, and administrators who prepare students for career success in our region.

***READY NWI K-12 members*** commit to:

- Creating and maintaining a personalized College and Career Success Plan for each high school student, aligned with standards and benchmarks created and updated by the READY NWI Education Team and with state graduation requirements;
- Actively engaging each student in Indiana Career Explorer (ICE), or approved alternative, to incorporate career exploration and career goals with selection of high school courses and post-high school education and training;
- Creating testing structures (PSAT, SAT, ACT) that measure each student's progress and inform plans for remediation, acquisition of early college credits, and adjustments to career plans as appropriate;
- Providing professional career counseling to all students via a combination of highly-trained counselors, informed teachers, community and employer mentors, and workforce development professionals;
- Expanding the relationships between the schools and employers to provide direct connections to information on jobs, information on the wide range of post-high school education and training options, and promotion of the Work Ethic Certificate to increase readiness for jobs and further education as defined by the region's employers; and
- Sharing data, expertise, and best practices with k-12 and college partners in the READY NWI network to advance regional education goals within the broader economic development initiatives of the region.

**READY NWI college and university members** commit to:

- Creating and maintaining a personalized Career Success Plan for each student that connects to high school career plans as appropriate, and with standards and benchmarks created and updated by the READY NWI Education Team ;
- Supporting K-12 school counselors in the region with timely information on college entry and success requirements and providing opportunities for students to explore college environments and obtain early college credits while in high school ;
- Expanding connections with regional employers via internships, employer mentors, and connections to career-related first jobs in the region;
- Purposefully tracking student progress to provide counseling and resources at crisis points to prevent dropouts or redirect students to other post-secondary programs;
- Connecting students to the community and young professionals in Northwest Indiana to increase student engagement with community affairs and to promote retention of college-educated talent in the region; and
- Sharing data, expertise, and best practices with k-12 and college partners in the READY NWI network to advance regional education goals within the broader economic development initiatives of the region.

The **Center of Workforce Innovations (CWI)** commits to support of *READY NWI* education partners by:

- Providing staff and organizational support for the initiative;
- Expanding connections between employers and schools in partnership with the Northwest Indiana Workforce Board and other employer associations;
- Seeking grants and other funding sources to maintain and expand the initiative;
- Providing research and data sharing platforms to schools, employers, and the community for ongoing sharing of job opportunities and educational progress; and
- Maintaining a clearinghouse of resources on the [www.readynwi.com](http://www.readynwi.com) website to provide success tools and information to all partners.

**Approved by:**

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Education Partner

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Linda Woloshansky, President and CEO  
Center of Workforce Innovations

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