

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Investing in Education Will Build a Stronger Indiana Economy**

**Indianapolis, IN**—The best way for Indiana to grow its economy is by investing in a well-educated workforce, according to a new paper published by EPI for the Economic Analysis and Research Network (EARN)—a network of 61 state and local economic think tanks and 25 national partners founded by the Economic Policy Institute and several other state and national groups, including the Indiana Institute for Working Families (Institute).

In *A Well Educated Workforce is Key to State Prosperity*, Noah Berger, president of the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, and Peter Fisher, research director at the Iowa Policy Project, find a strong link between the educational attainment of state workforces and both productivity and median wages. Expanding access to high quality education will create more economic opportunity for Hoosiers and do more to strengthen Indiana's overall economy than anything else.

"While Indiana has experienced growth in productivity, our educational attainment has not kept pace, and lags behind most of our neighbors and even our own strategic goals," said Andrew Bradley, Senior Policy Analyst with the Institute. "As this paper reinforces, a better-educated workforce means higher wages and a more productive economy. In order to stay competitive with other states, Indiana must find new ways to expand access to quality education for all Hoosiers."

According to the paper, ways to increase the educational attainment of Indiana's population include: working to slow the growth of college tuition, increasing financial aid, investing in quality K-12 education and offering universal preschool programs.

"Investing in an educated workforce is also good for Indiana's state budget in the long run," said Bradley. "Education provides the best return on investment for the state and leads to self-sufficient Hoosier families that don't need to rely on outside assistance to succeed."

Meanwhile, strategies such as cutting taxes to lure employers and capture private investments from other states are shortsighted, and promote a race to the bottom which undermines states' ability to invest in and attract an educated workforce. The paper finds no clear relationship between a state's tax rates and its wages.

The report can be found at <http://www.epi.org/publication/states-education-productivity-growth-foundations> and the accompanying blog is at <http://www.epi.org/blog/education-investment-not-low-taxes-is-key-to-state-prosperity>.

Press release can be found online at: [http://www.incap.org/investeducationrelease.html#.UhZ3rZKW\\_rx](http://www.incap.org/investeducationrelease.html#.UhZ3rZKW_rx)

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## **ABOUT THE INDIANA INSTITUTE FOR WORKING FAMILIES**

The Indiana Institute for Working Families – a program of the Indiana Community Action Association (INCAA) – conducts research and promotes public policies to help Hoosier families achieve and maintain economic self-sufficiency. The Institute is the only statewide program in Indiana that combines research and policy analysis on federal and state legislation, public policies, and programs impacting low-income working families. The Institute achieves its work through advocacy and education, and through national, statewide, and community partnerships. The Institute was founded in 2004. To learn more about the Institute, please visit: [www.incap.org/iiwf.html](http://www.incap.org/iiwf.html)

## **ABOUT THE INDIANA COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION (IN-CAA)**

The Indiana Community Action Association, Inc. (IN-CAA) is a statewide not-for-profit membership corporation, incorporated in the State of Indiana in 1970. IN-CAA's members are comprised of Indiana's 23 Community Action Agencies (CAAs), which serve all of Indiana's 92 counties. IN-CAA envisions a state with limited or no poverty, where its residents have decent, safe, and sanitary living conditions, and where resources are available to help low-income individuals attain self-sufficiency. IN-CAA serves as an advocate and facilitator of policy, planning and programs to create solutions and share responsibility as leaders in the War Against Poverty. IN-CAA's mission is to help the state's CAAs address the conditions of poverty through: training and technical assistance; developing models for service delivery; and providing resources to help increase network capacity. For more information about IN-CAA, please visit: [www.incap.org](http://www.incap.org)