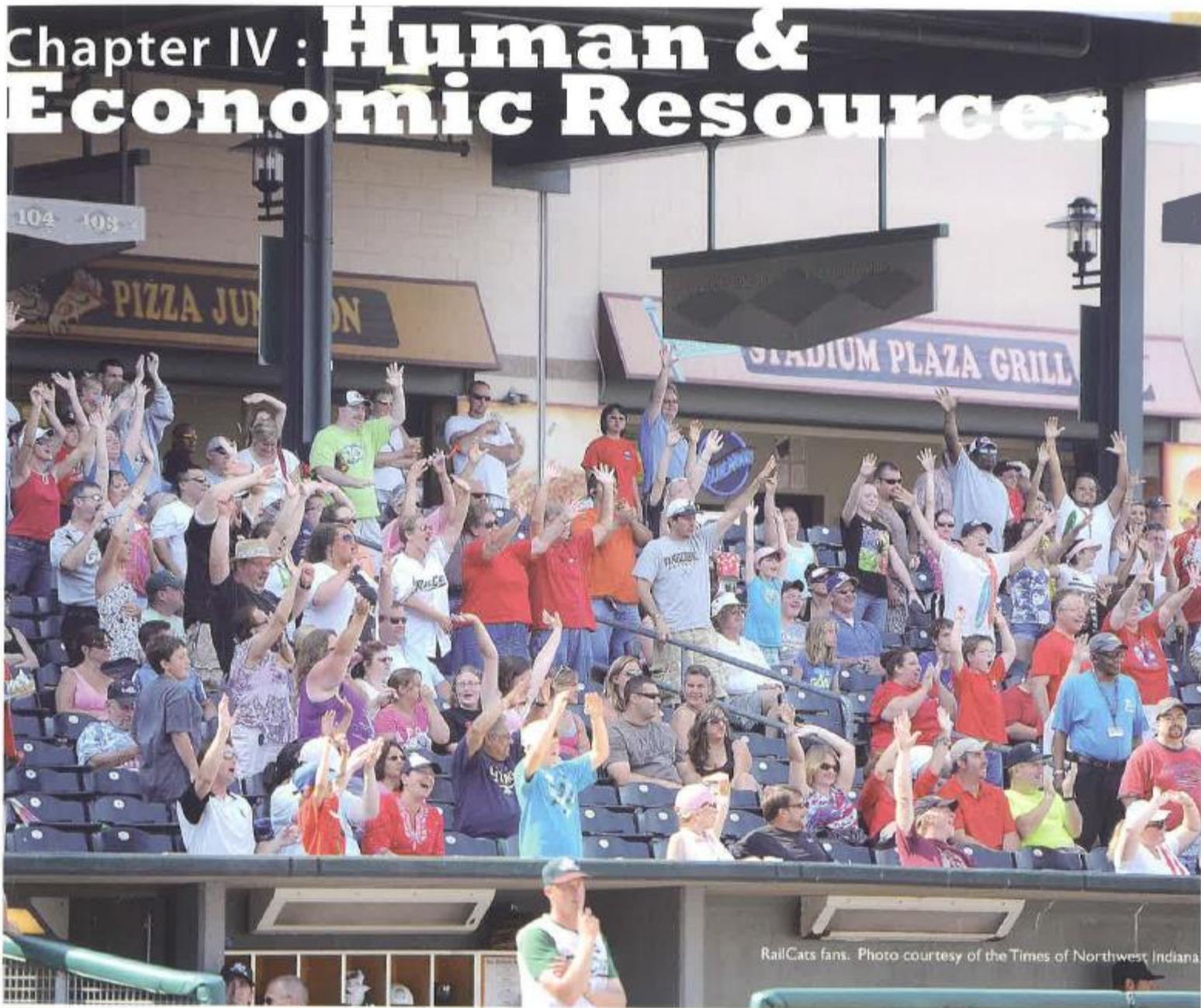


Chapter IV : **Human & Economic Resources**



RailCats fans. Photo courtesy of the Times of Northwest Indiana

Chapter Contents/page

Overview / **3**

Performance Measures / **8**

Overview

The 2040 CRP Vision Statement addresses human and economic resources in its Vibrant Region vision theme: Our economy is thriving and our people are well-educated. Northwest Indiana competes in the Midwest, the nation and the world to attract business, industry and economic development opportunities. Economic revitalization is dependent on the collaboration and cooperation between business, government and other institutions to improve workforce skills, develop infrastructure and create reinvestment opportunities. A major emphasis of the Plan is reinvestment and redevelopment of the region's core communities, with particular focus on Gary, Hammond, East Chicago and Michigan City. NIRPC continues to support the economic development advancements that are underway.

NIRPC will continue to support the following key strategies necessary to achieve the Region's economic health and vitality goals:

- Continued operation and staffing of the Northwest Indiana Economic Development District, a partnership between NIRPC and the Northwest Indiana Forum
- Advance top industry clusters which include:
 - Transportation, distribution and logistics.
 - Advanced manufacturing
 - Information Technology
 - Professional and medical services
- Leverage land use and multimodal transportation
- Support education and job development partners

NIRPC continues to partner with the Northwest Indiana Forum as well as entities such as One Region, The Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority, the Center for Workforce Innovations, and the Lake County Indiana Economic Alliance and other area Economic Development Commissions in carrying out the Economic Development goals and objectives. NIRPC will continue to support and work with other partner agencies in their efforts to improve the economic vitality and health of the region.

A key ingredient to economic health is the investment in educational and job development networks. An educated workforce is vital for the Region's prosperity, and educational institutions help the Region compete for quality jobs. The Center for Workforce Innovations annually produces a State of the Workforce Report. According to the 2014 report, the current economy is "one on the mend." As the economy grows, the need for educated and skilled workers will rise. READY NWI is a regional partnership between schools, employers, economic development groups, and the community aimed at ensuring prosperity by meeting the skill and education needs of employers. The vision of READY NWI is that "by 2025, a talent pool for our Northwest Indiana employers where 80 percent of the labor force has a post-high school credential aligned with

employers' needs." The alignment of workforce, education and economic development in targeting the industries is promising for growing the regional economy.

To build on the region's strengths and support economic development targets, efforts are underway in the region to coordinate workforce training programs and institutions to improve the experience for workers and businesses. Ivy Tech Northwest offers certificates in manufacturing operations mechatronics, computer information systems and computer information technology; and industrial technology, logistics associate and logistics technician. Purdue University Calumet awards degrees in engineering technology, computer information technology, mechanical engineering and electrical and computer engineering. Purdue North Central offers computer network information and technology. Professional and medical credentials can be found in schools across the region. The Center of Workforce Innovations partnered with Conexus Indiana to expand the Dream It Do It campaign among regional high schools in support of manufacturing and conducted manufacturing summit roundtables.

Northwest Indiana Economic Development District (NWIEDD)

NIRPC continued to provide staffing and accounting services for NWIEDD. NWIEDD is a separate, nonprofit federally designated organization established through a partnership between NIRPC and the Northwest Indiana Forum. NWIEDD was created to maintain and implement the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and secure economic development-related grant opportunities from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), a bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce. NWIEDD serves as a bridge between the private and public sectors and networks area leaders in readying economic development projects potentially eligible for grant funding.

CEDS represents the confluence of local public and private interests intended to be a roadmap to a bright future in Northwest Indiana. The deliberation and forethought incorporated into CEDS is intended to help create jobs, foster a more stable and diversified economy, and improve quality of life. It provides a mechanism to coordinate the efforts of individuals, organizations, local governments, and private industry concerned with economic development. CEDS was updated in 2013.

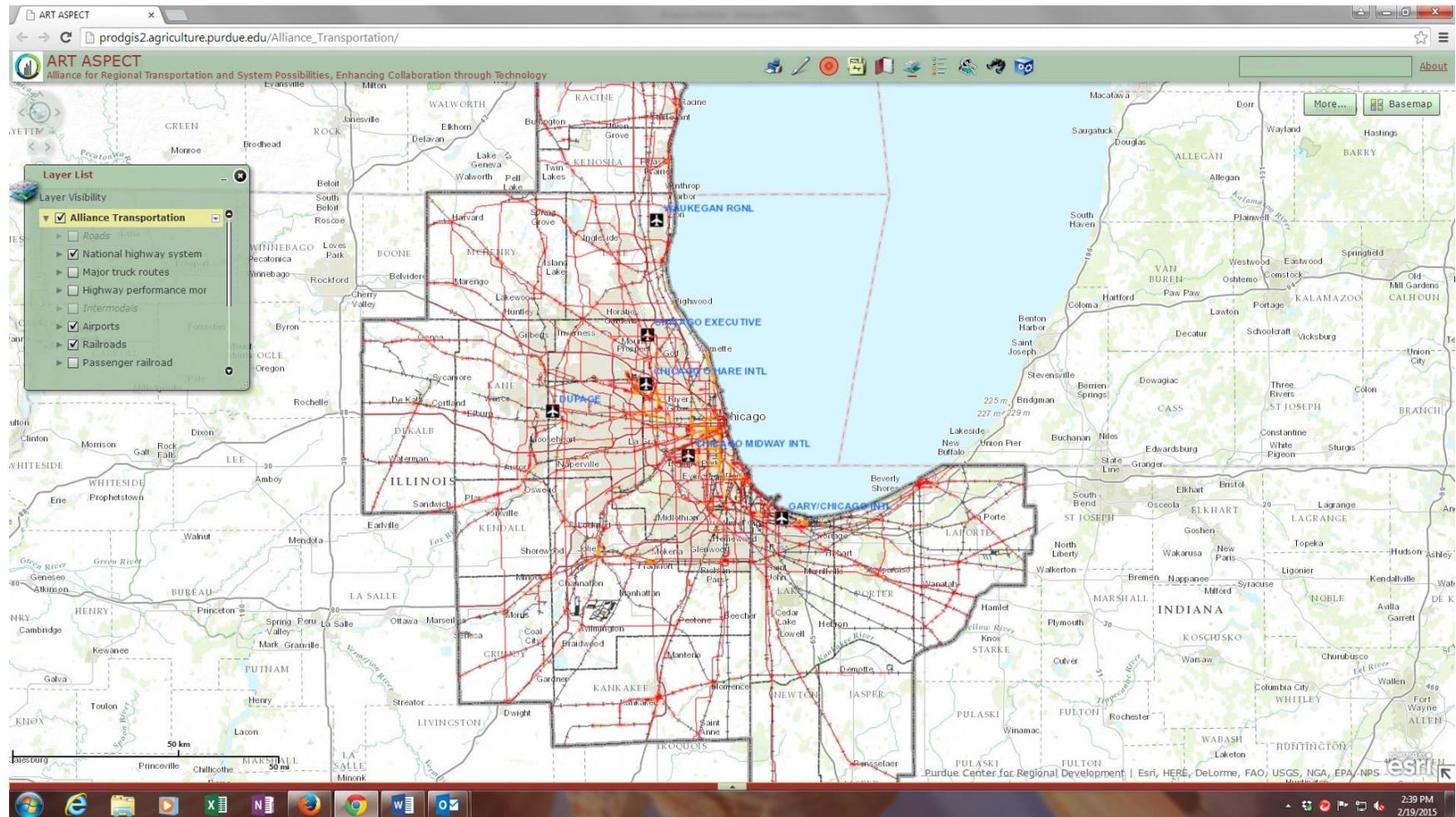
In 2014, NWIEDD applied for District status from the EDA. It also received an operational planning grant from the EDA and solicited a staffing entity to carry out the District's activities. Staffing was added via a consultant. NIRPC will continue to assist NWIEDD's future organizational capacity for the purpose of enhancing other economic development activities in the region.

Alliance for Regional Development

The Alliance for Regional Development is a coalition of high-level leaders in business, government, and academia working together to strengthen the economic competitiveness of Chicago's 21-county tri-state region, including Northeast Illinois, Northwest Indiana, and Southeast Wisconsin. The Alliance's common goal is to provide a cross-jurisdictional, multi-sector response to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Territorial Review of the tri-state region that recommended specific and coordinated improvements in four key areas—*workforce development, innovation, transportation and logistics, and green growth*—to overcome growth and job-creation rates well below national and international averages for large metropolitan areas.

In order to ensure that the region profits from an economically strong and competitive future, the Alliance organized working teams in the four key areas. The working teams, comprised of leaders in government, academia, and the private sector from all three states, collaborated to develop regional economic development strategies.

Alliance Transportation & Logistics Working Team



With leadership from planning agencies, the private sector, and universities in all three states, the Alliance Transportation & Logistics Working Team focused on the Milwaukee-Chicago-Gary corridor as the nation's premier transportation and logistics hub and a major continent-wide

player in air travel, air cargo, railways, and freight. NIRPC collaborated extensively with the Purdue Calumet Center for Innovation through Visualization and Simulation (CIVS) and Purdue West Lafayette Center for Regional Development (PCRD) to create a regional planning and economic development Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tool for showcasing regional infrastructure across the three-state region and leveling land use data for economic development purposes. NIRPC worked with its partner Metropolitan Planning Organizations in Southeast Wisconsin and Northeast Chicago to share and level data for seamless analysis across state lines to the use and benefit of the private sector. The interactive GIS map and analysis tool will help close the gaps in the regional transportation system by allowing decision makers in Northeast Illinois, Northwest Indiana, and Southeast Wisconsin to coordinate federal funding requests across state lines. Creating the tool required close collaboration on the part of leaders and staff from NIRPC, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, the Purdue Center for Innovation through Visualization and Simulation, and the Purdue Center for Regional Development.

Regional Development Authority (RDA) Economic Impact

The Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) was created by the Indiana General Assembly in 2005. The RDA has invested \$210 million in projects across the region, which leveraged \$667 million in spending by local governments, federal government, and private parties. For every one dollar of RDA funds invested to date, a return of an additional \$3.17 is generated toward implementing regional development priorities. The RDA continues its mission to invest in regional economic development, creating jobs and fund projects that will have a lasting economic impact on the Northwest Indiana region. The RDA has partnered with the Indiana Economic Development Corporation on economic development projects. Through this partnership, RDA's investments helped bring nearly 1,000 jobs and half a billion dollars in investment. Combining those economic and construction jobs with those created by the Lake Michigan shoreline and Gary Airport projects, a proposed 5,500 jobs will be created by 2025.

Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC)

The IEDC is the State's lead economic development agency. This public-private partnership focuses its efforts on growing and retaining businesses in Indiana and attracting new business to the State of Indiana. Incentives provided through the IEDC, approximately 32 businesses took part in either attracting or expanding their business and creating nearly 2,000 new jobs in the Northwest Indiana region between 2012-2014.

Performance Measures

The following performance measures are used to measure the success of the economic development goals, objectives and efforts.

- Employment
- Unemployment
- Per capita income
- Population growth
- Job Growth/Number of jobs created
- Median household income
- Educational attainment levels

Employment

The heart of an economy is its workforce. In June of 2010, roughly 279,953 were employed in Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties. As of June of 2014, there were 289,196 employed, an increase of approximately 3%. See Table IV-1 below.

Employment						
	<u>Q2 2010</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Q2 2014</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Change in Total</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Lake	184,041	66%	188,506	65%	4,465	2%
Porter	54,398	19%	59,107	20%	4,709	9%
LaPorte	41,514	15%	41,583	14%	69	0%
Total	279,953		289,196		9,243	3%

Source: United States Department of Labor

Table IV-1: Employment

Unemployment

Unemployment may still be higher compared to Indiana, but it is trending downward. From 2010 to 2013, the unemployment rate has decreased in all of Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties. See Table IV-2 below.

Unemployment					
County	Year	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Lake	2013	221,661	201,229	20,432	9.2%
LaPorte	2013	48,905	44,291	4,614	9.4%
Porter	2013	83,291	77,126	6,165	7.4%
Chicago Metro Region					9.1%
Indiana					7.5%
County	Year	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Lake	2010	221,728	197,568	24,160	10.9%
LaPorte	2010	51,271	45,222	6,049	11.8%
Porter	2010	81,918	74,748	7,170	8.8%
Chicago Metro Region					10.4%
Indiana					10.0%

Source: Labor Force Data by County, 2013 Annual Averages

Table IV-2: Underemployment

Per Capita Income

Per capita income is a meaningful measure to indicate trends in income. In the past three years, income has remained unchanged with little to no increase. This is true throughout the entire country. See Table IV-3 below.

Per Capita Income					
2013					
	Lake County	LaPorte County	Porter County	NIRPC Region	
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate		
Per capita income in the past 12 months (in 2013 inflation-adjusted dollars)	23,918	22,852	28,669	\$24,792.42	
2010					
	Lake County	LaPorte County	Porter County	NIRPC Region	
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate		
Per capita income in the past 12 months (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars)	23,142	22,599	27,922	\$24,081.39	
In 2013 inflation dollars	24,730.90	24,143.32	29,830.07	\$25,731.81	
<i>Source: American Community Survey 2013</i>					

Table IV-3: Per Capita Income

Population Growth

Also see Growth and Conservation chapter. Lake and LaPorte Counties have seen a slight decrease in population in the last three years. However, Porter County has seen an increase of about 1.35% in population. See Table IV-4 below.

Population Growth						
Counties	Total 2010	Percent of Total	Total 2013	Percent of Total	Total Change	Percent Change
Lake	496,005	64%	491,456	64%	-4,549	-0.92%
Porter	164,343	21%	166,557	22%	2,214	1.35%
LaPorte	111,467	14%	111,281	14%	-186	-0.17%
Total	771,815		769,294		-2,521	-0.33%
<i>Source: 2013 Population Estimates and 2010 Census</i>						

Table IV-4: Population Growth

Job Growth

Job growth is key in measuring economic vitality. Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties have each seen an increase in job growth. Roughly 3% increase from 2012 to 2014. See Table IV-5 below.

Job Growth									
	Jun-10	Jun-14	Change	% Change					
Lake	184,041	188,506	4,465	2.00%					
Porter	55,162	59,696	4,534	8.00%					
LaPorte	41,514	41,583	69	0.00%					
Total	280,717	289,785	9,068	3.00%					
<i>Source: BLS Quarterly Reports QCEW</i>									
<i>The most recent data from 2nd quarter 2014, used the 2nd quarter 2010 as the comparison number.</i>									

Table IV-5: Job Growth

Median Household Income

Median Household Income			
County	2010	2013	2010 (2013 Inflation)
Lake	\$48,723	\$49,035	\$52,053
LaPorte	\$46,014	\$47,538	\$46,158
Porter	\$60,889	\$62,794	\$65,050
Indiana	\$47,697	\$48,248	\$50,956
US	\$51,914	\$53,046	\$55,462

Source: US Census American Community Survey Five Year Estimate

Table IV-6: Median Household Income

As of 2013, Lake County's median household income was \$49,035; Porter County had a median household income of \$62,794, and LaPorte County had a median household income of \$47,538. Each County had a slight increase since 2010. Indiana had a median income of \$48,248 in 2011. With the exception of Porter County, all median household incomes were below that of the US at \$53,046.

Educational Attainment Levels

Educational attainment helps to highlight the important role of education and workforce development. Generally, higher levels of education are associated with lower rates of unemployment, higher skilled workforce and a more economically thriving region. In the last three years, education attainment has seen a slight increase with graduates' receiving some college and higher degrees. See Table IV-7 below.

2013 Educational Attainment (Population Over 25 Years)								
	Pop of 25 years	Less than 9th Grade	9th to 12th Grade, no diploma	High school graduate	Some college, no degree	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Graduate or professional degree
Lake	325,401	15,369	26,979	117,410	76,546	24,728	42,667	21,682
Porter	110,462	2,461	7,008	38,870	23,906	10,185	17,947	10,085
LaPorte	76,715	2,626	7,701	30,420	16,289	6,392	8,571	4,686
Total	512,578	20,456	41,688	186,700	116,741	41,305	69,185	36,453
Percent		4%	8%	36%	23%	8%	13%	7%
2010 Educational Attainment (Population Over 25 Years)								
	Pop of 25 years	Less than 9th Grade	9th to 12th Grade, no diploma	High school graduate	Some college, no degree	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's degree	Graduate or professional degree
Lake	322,775	15,684	29,207	120,268	73,237	23,384	40,827	20,268
Porter	107,034	2,654	6,696	38,208	23,636	8,851	17,426	9,563
LaPorte	75,996	2,839	8,224	30,084	15,917	6,227	8,286	4,419
Total	505,805	21,177	44,127	188,560	112,790	38,462	66,539	34,250
Percent		4%	9%	37%	22%	8%	13%	7%
<i>Source: American Community Survey 2013</i>								

Table IV-7: Educational Attainment

Conclusion

Economic development is advancing, educational attainment is the reasoning. Jobs are growing and income is rising regionwide. They are all positive signs of progressing towards the Vibrant Region vision theme of a thriving economy where people are well-educated.