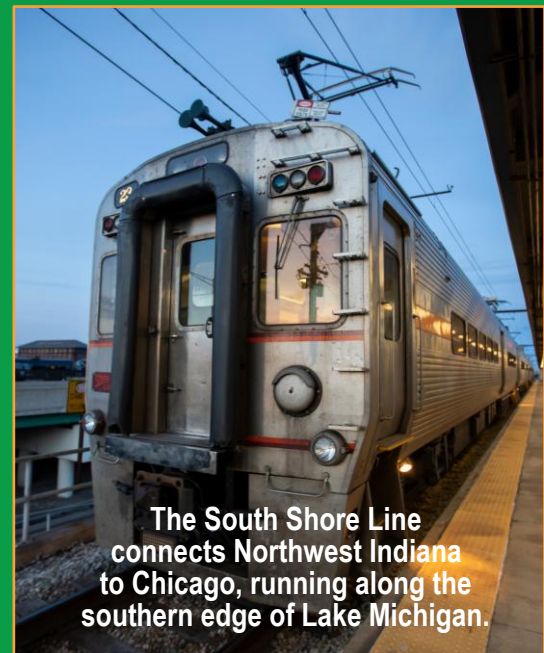


Workforce » Works!!

The Urban Rural Connection

Annual Convening 2026



The South Shore Line connects Northwest Indiana to Chicago, running along the southern edge of Lake Michigan.

June 2-4 | Northwest *Indiana*



Indiana's rural landscape reflects a balance of agriculture and clean energy, where farming and wind power drive regional growth.

Experience Northwest Indiana through site visits, regional examples, and conversations that show how local leadership and employers demand shape real workforce outcomes.

Register Today: [HERE](#) * Registration Ends 5/15/2026

Explore how workforce hubs, sector partnerships, and community-based strategies come together to support talent and employers.

Located along Lake Michigan, the East Chicago refinery plays a central role in Northwest Indiana's energy and manufacturing economy.



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE • SCHEDULE YOUR CONSULT TODAY

Melanie Martin
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Oh, the places you'll go!

Midwest Urban Strategies (MUS), in partnership with our member, the Center of Workforce Innovations (CWI), invites you to Northwest Indiana for a three-day convening focused on how workforce systems align across urban and rural communities. Over three days, attendees will explore regional leadership in action, examine the evolving federal policy landscape, and engage directly with practitioners building integrated, community-driven models. This convening moves across Indiana's geography, from urban Gary and Michigan City to rural Rensselaer, offering a firsthand look at how local assets, employer demand, and community partnerships shape workforce strategy.

Agenda Highlights

- Visit and tour the revitalized campus of Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, where a historic liberal arts institution is entering a new chapter as a workforce-focused training center
- Explore WorkBIG: Beautifying Gary, a paid work-based learning initiative that pairs neighborhood revitalization with hands-on training, professional skills development, and employer-connected hiring events demand
- Engage in policy discussions on Workforce Pell and the federal landscape shaping system sustainability
- Learn how the NWI Works Opportunity Hub aligns partners to address readiness, stability, and long-term career pathways across the region outcomes
- Examine early childhood apprenticeship strategies, youth programming, and reentry initiatives
- From strategic policy conversations to immersive site visits, this convening is designed for leaders who want to see how alignment across partners, sectors, and communities translates into practical results.

Join us in Northwest Indiana as we learn from one another, strengthen regional connections, and advance workforce systems that work across geography and community.

Early Bird Registration ends April 30th – Event Registration ends May 15th

Blue Chip Hotel & Spa Information:

To make hotel reservations online by entering Group Code: **MUS2026** where prompted on the Hotel Reservations Page by following this link:
[**https://bluechip.boydgaming.com/stay/group-reservation**](https://bluechip.boydgaming.com/stay/group-reservation)



*Thank you to our sponsors for
your partnership and support.*

Your investment makes this convening possible, bringing together workforce development stakeholders, including Workforce Development Boards (WDBs), community leaders, elected officials, employers, and community-based organizations.

Together, we are creating space to learn from what is working, see how strategies take shape across communities, and strengthen the systems that support workers and employers. This convening is designed to move beyond conversation, offering real examples and shared experiences that can be adapted and applied across regions.

We appreciate your commitment to this work and your role in helping advance solutions that make workforce systems stronger, more connected, and more responsive.



Annual Convening 2026 Sponsors:



*Special Thank you to our local
partners and collaborators*



The Urban Rural Connection **Annual Convening 2026**

Sponsorship Packages

Hoosiers Heritage Sponsor \$10,000

- 4 Event Registrations
- Event Signage, Promotions, Announcements, Agenda Booklet
- Promotional Items in Attendee Giveaway Bag
- Logo placement on Sponsor Recognition Reel during event
- 2 BOD Dinner Reservations
- Recognition at Workforce Hero Awards Ceremony as Sponsor
- 4 Full Pg. Advertising Pkgs in MUS Connector Newsletter
- Logo Recognition in MUS Newsletter and on MUS/CWI Social Media Posts and Websites

South Shore Line Sponsor \$5,000

- 3 Event Registrations
- Event Signage, Promotions, Announcements, Agenda Booklet
- Promotional Items in Attendee Giveaway Bag
- Logo placement on Sponsor Recognition Reel during event
- 1 BOD Dinner Reservation
- Recognition at Workforce Hero Awards Ceremony as Sponsor
- 3 Full Pg. Advertising Pkgs in MUS Connector Newsletter
- Logo Recognition in MUS Newsletter and on MUS/CWI Social Media Posts and Websites

Great Lakes Grand Prix Sponsor \$2,500

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- Event Signage, Promotions, Announcements, Agenda Booklet
- Promotional Items in Attendee Giveaway Bag
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- 1 BOD Dinner Reservation
- Recognition at Workforce Hero Awards Ceremony as Sponsor
- 2 Full Pg. Advertising Pkgs in MUS Connector Newsletter
- Logo Recognition in MUS Newsletter and on MUS/CWI Social Media Posts and Websites

Lighthouse Legacy Sponsor \$1,500

- 1 Event Registration
- Event Signage, Promotions, Announcements, Agenda Booklet
- Promotional Items in Attendee Giveaway Bag
- Logo placement on Sponsor Recognition Reel during event
- 1 BOD Dinner Reservation
- Recognition at Workforce Hero Awards Ceremony as Sponsor
- 1 Full Pg. Advertising Pkg. in MUS Connector Newsletter
- Logo Recognition in MUS Newsletter and on MUS/CWI Social Media Posts and Websites

Indiana Dunes In-Kind Sponsor Support Comes in Many Forms

- Entertainment: Enhance the event with activities (e.g., local sports tickets)
- Facilities: Provide venues for tours or meetings
- Meals, Snacks & Refreshments: Supply food and drinks for attendees.
- Local Attractions: Offer access to Milwaukee's iconic sites
- Financial Contributions: Support the event with monetary donations to cover specific needs
- Involvement: Have your team participate as attendees to support and learn

SCHEDULE YOUR CONSULT TODAY

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