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URGENT

## Holcomb appoints two from Region to serve on new Governor's Workforce Cabinet

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Jena Bellezza

Provided



Former LaPorte Mayor Blair Milo, now Indiana's secretary of career connections and talent, displays employment statistics during a workshop on building a 21st

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INDIANAPOLIS — The new Governor's Workforce Cabinet soon will begin its task of assessing and aligning Indiana's education and workforce development programs.

On Wednesday, Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb appointed the 13 business, labor and community representatives that will serve on the panel alongside eight state officials.

Two of the cabinet members hail from Northwest Indiana: Jená Bellezza, of Crown Point, Indiana Parenting Institute vice president of strategic partnerships and branding; and former LaPorte Mayor Blair Milo, who now serves as Indiana's secretary of career connections and talent.

The cabinet is scheduled to convene every other month, though its first meeting has not been scheduled.

century workforce Jan. 19, 2018 at the Porter County Community Foundation building in Valparaiso.

Steve Euvino, The Times



Governor signs laws intended to streamline and enhance urgency of Indiana workforce development programs



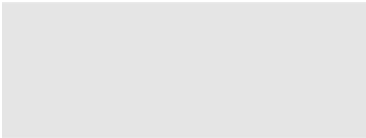
Holcomb seeking federal waiver for already-enacted changes to Indiana's workforce development system

Gov. Holcomb establishes new state office for apprenticeships and work-based learning

In addition to aligning state education and workforce development efforts, the cabinet is required by Senate Enrolled Act 50 to develop a comprehensive career navigation and coaching system for Hoosier high school students and to assess the outcomes of career and technical education programs.

"We have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country and tens of thousands of unfilled jobs across the state," Holcomb said.

"Now is the time to move beyond planning and strategy and take urgent action to help more Hoosiers learn the skills they need to secure great jobs. This cabinet brings together the right people with the right mission to accomplish our goals."











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## Daniel Carden

Dan is Statehouse Bureau Chief for The Times. Since 2009, he's reported on Indiana government and politics – and how both impact the Region – from the state capital in Indianapolis. He originally is from Orland Park, Ill.