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# CONEXUS

## INDIANA

## 'C' in human capital renews Indiana's commitment to growing skilled workforce

Indiana received high marks for its advanced manufacturing and logistics industries on this year's [Manufacturing & Logistics Report Card](#), compiled by the Ball State Center for Business and Economic Research. The annual report "grades" the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities affecting the two industries that employ nearly one of every four Hoosiers. However, a 'C' in human capital highlights the need for more industry-driven education to prepare workers for success in these fields.

Despite an improvement from 37th to 29th nationally, **Indiana's human capital grade represents a significant challenge to the state's continued growth in advanced manufacturing and logistics**, and could have long-term consequences to the overall economy. This year's 'C' grade marks a modest improvement from a 'C-' last year, due largely to strong enrollment in community college programs and elevated high school graduation rates. However, even with the increase, Indiana's adult population continues to fall among the least-educated in the nation. As a result, Hoosier manufacturing and logistics firms are having a hard time finding qualified candidates for jobs that demand increasingly advanced skills.

Indiana's efforts to bolster its skilled workforce took center stage during a panel discussion accompanying the release of the report card. The panel consisted of local experts on various topics related to the industry, including Dr. Tony Bennett, Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction; Susan Brooks, senior vice president for workforce and economic development at Ivy Tech Community College; Chip Edgington, executive vice president, operations at Redcats and incoming chair at the Conexus Indiana Logistics Council; **Steve Dwyer**, Conexus Indiana president and CEO; and U.S. Representative Todd Rokita of Indiana's 4th District and member of the House Budget Committee and House Education and Workforce Committee.

**"This year's Report Card reiterates that Indiana must do a better job preparing the next generation of manufacturing and logistics workers," Dwyer said. "Today's jobs aren't about standing at assembly lines - they're about running**

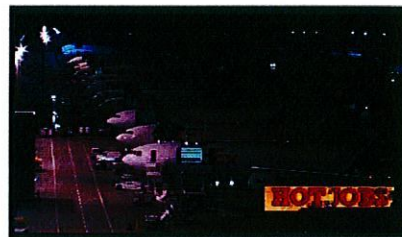
## HOT JOBS

### Material Distribution Specialists

Manufacturing plants couldn't run without Material Distribution Specialists, who are on the front lines of getting needed materials from Point A to Point B. These jobs focus on handling, transportation and warehousing, with room to grow into supervisor positions.

**Average earnings:** \$37,500 - \$46,500

**Job outlook:** 2,793 job openings projected during the next two years



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computerized equipment and robotic systems, about teamwork and problem-solving."

To ensure Indiana's human capital grade improves, Conexus Indiana is working with corporate and academic partners to increase industry-endorsed educational programs. Conexus has developed an advanced manufacturing and logistics skills template with direct input from human resources and operations executives representing all sectors of industry. The planned development of a high school curriculum based on the skills template has received support from more than 50 superintendents and career center directors throughout the state for implementation in the classroom.

Conexus Indiana's [Dream It. Do It.](#) Campaign takes the next step of recruiting students into these programs by identifying "Champions" at local high schools and careers centers who can help steer interested students toward appropriate training opportunities. Dream It. Do It. Champions are charged with showing students that today's advanced manufacturing and logistics careers are no longer dark, dreary, or monotonous, but rather are fast-paced, high-tech and high-paying careers.

This fall, Conexus will bring industry and academia even closer together through the [A+ Partners](#) program, which pairs schools with local logistics and advanced manufacturing employers to provide guest speakers, facility tours, apprenticeships, and other learning opportunities.

While education was an area of concern at this year's report, Indiana did score some positive feedback. The state received 'A' grades for its manufacturing and logistics industries, global position and tax climate. This is credited largely to a tax and legislative environment that promotes business growth, and geographical and infrastructure advantages that make it easy and cost effective to move goods to and from the state.

To see the full report, click [here](#).



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**MILLION** HOOSIERS WHO LACK THE  
BASIC EDUCATIONAL SKILLS NECESSARY  
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## Harrison College launches a new logistics associate degree endorsed by Conexus Indiana

The publication of the 2011 Manufacturing & Logistics Report Card provides a time to evaluate the growth of these integral industries in Indiana. While many of the state's positive assets were highlighted in the report, one

industries by "liking" our page on Facebook, or following us on Twitter [@CONEXUS IN](#). We'll keep you informed of the latest jobs announcements, economic development news, and what we're doing to boost these key industries throughout Indiana.

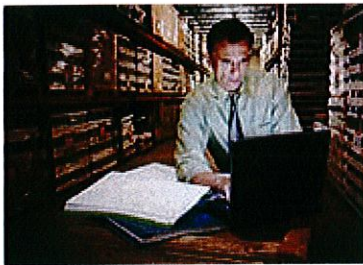
challenge for the industry took a prominent position in the minds of industry professionals. The issue of human capital and the pressing need to increase training and awareness for Hoosiers looking to work in the manufacturing and logistics industry is at a critical point.

To address this issue, Conexus Indiana is fostering strong partnerships between industry leaders and educators to strengthen the capabilities and competencies of our workforce. Most recently, Conexus partnered with Harrison College to create an associate degree program in logistics. The program, which will begin in September, is the first logistics associate degree program in the state with curriculum created using the Conexus Indiana [Advanced Manufacturing & Logistics Skills Template](#), which was developed directly by industry.

The new program is specifically designed to provide students the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in logistics. Jim Jelinek, director of operations at Langham Logistics, and Rick Weber, vice president, operations, at Venture Logistics, were instrumental in developing the coursework.

Harrison College's logistics program provides students with a thorough understanding of theory and application related to the advanced demand of planning and designing systems for moving goods and services. Students will collect and analyze data, identify alternative solutions and select the most appropriate course of action for product and service delivery. Graduates of the program will be well prepared to serve in the logistics industry.

For more information on Harrison College's logistics program, click [here](#).



INDIANA IS SIGNIFICANTLY BELOW THE AVERAGE IN THE NUMBER OF ADULTS (AGES 25-64) WHO HAVE OBTAINED EITHER AN ASSOCIATE OR A BACHELOR'S DEGREE.

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