

IGNITE THE REGION IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

	Notes
2. ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION: Foster robust entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems to propel future economic growth.	
2.1. Cultivate and convene networks of entrepreneurs.	
2.1.1. Establish a Northwest Indiana entrepreneurial coalition to serve as a formalized regionwide network of entrepreneurship and innovation service providers and experts.	SOI's completed strategic was approved by its Board of Directors. SOI hired a full-time Assistant Director, Jason Williams, who will be dedicated to helping implement the plan and grow SOI's network.
2.1.2. The coalition should regularly travel to Chicago to speak to other entrepreneurship networks and venture capital (VC)/angel investment groups.	Carol Podolak has developed a list of entities to meet with and potentially partner with
2.1.3. Leaders of Chicago-based networks should be invited to Northwest Indiana to speak at gatherings of the coalition.	
2.2 Build a regional entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem asset map to help entrepreneurs, startup companies, and investors to navigate the state's existing resources and networks.	
2.2.1. Resources in Chicago should be included in the asset map.	Lorri continuing to update the entrepreneurial asset map and working with Raeann on a design for a webpage with categories of resources for entrepreneurs. List of Chicago resources provided by Carol Podolak will be added. Lorrie submitted web page mock up of regional resources.
2.2.2. Market the asset map to both internal and external audiences.	
2.3. Raise awareness of regional entrepreneurial success stories.	
2.3.1. Develop a media strategy for publicizing entrepreneurship success stories in traditional and social media.	SOI to launch its newsletter in August that will include news & stories of Northwest Indiana innovators and entrepreneurs.
2.3.2. Encourage entrepreneurial role models to participate in events and campaigns designed to inspire a new generation of entrepreneurial talent.	Focusing on the big idea of an Accelerator, offering space and resources to support Start-ups that would be a focal point where investors and professional resources could come a la Plug and Play Tech Center or Launch Fishers.
2.4. Increase access to capital for Northwest Indiana entrepreneurs.	
2.4.1. Encourage the formation of angel investment networks focused on providing startup capital to regional entrepreneurs.	Gary Johnson drafted and is refining a model for funding of scalable start-ups. Gary presented overview at IGNITE implementation meeting.
2.4.2. Market the region to risk capital funds in Chicago.	
2.4.3. Develop an annual report documenting the successful VC investments in Northwest Indiana and disseminate it to VC investors.	
2.4.4. Work with other angel investment networks in Chicago to form a syndication network to improve deal flow for Northwest Indiana companies and investors.	
2.4.5 Develop Microfinance Loan Options for Main Street Business	
2.5. Develop an entrepreneurship policy agenda and advocate to the state on policies needed to support the entrepreneurship ecosystem.	

<p>2.6. Develop youth entrepreneurship programs to foster a culture of entrepreneurship.</p>	<p>Will start conversations with StartEd Up Foundation about possible NW Indiana visits/events (https://startedupfoundation.org/) - *Society started conversation with AgriNovus Indiana to host AgTech Innovation Day in NWI (daylong hackathon for HS students), getting pushed to 2021 spring semester because of COVID19</p>
<p>1) Innovate Within High school business pitch competition sponsored by IEDC will have a March 7th regional event at PNW Hammond. SOI has marketed this to our members as well as Leadership Institute members and school partners.</p>	
<p>2) 2 area Junior Achievement organizations as well as the Leadership Center youth group SLYCE offer youth programs</p>	
<p>3) Jason Williams; Centric' s board chair; has joined the SOI</p>	
<p>2.7. Develop new spaces for entrepreneurs and innovators.</p>	
	<p>Big Idea is an accelerator space for entrepreneurial start ups with necessary business support resources located in an urban center close to a university with potential resources, research capacity, support and synergies.5K in prize money!</p>
<p>2.8. Target and recruit growing early stage firms in the Chicago market.</p>	
<p>2.8.1. Join and engage with Chicago-area entrepreneurship networks, talent networks, and industry associations to identify new companies.</p>	<p>SOI to explore membership in Chicago Innovation and Chicago Ideas Week for 2020</p>
<p>2.8.2. Target emerging and “gazelle” companies in business incubators/accelerators in these markets.</p>	
<p>2.8.3. Track venture capital firms in Chicago that have recently funded high-growth, innovative businesses.</p>	
<p>2.8.4. Engage experienced or serial entrepreneurs with a track record of starting and growing companies.</p>	<p>Innovation has been added to the learning objectives and content offering of the redesigned Leadership Northwest Indiana (LNI) program for business professionals across all regional economic sectors.</p>
<p>2.8.5. Promote investment opportunities in local firms that have been awarded small business innovation research (SBIR) and small business technology transfer (STTR) grants.</p>	<p>Mont Handley at PNW working to become an SBIR grant trainer</p>
<p>2.9. Promote rural entrepreneurship.</p>	
	<p>Start a conversation Neil Mylet (Delphi, IN) who is launching a rural/community innovation center in Carroll County. Will also start a conversation with AgriNovus Indiana about programs/resources for NW Indiana (agrinovusindiana.com)</p>
<p>2.10. Support innovation within existing companies.</p>	
<p>2.10.1. Encourage local entrepreneurs and innovators to tap into federal funding in the SBIR and STTR grants.</p>	
<p>2.10.2. Look for opportunities to establish additional centers of excellence in the region.</p>	
<p>2.11. Bolster federal, state, and private investments in higher education, emphasizing the science and technology fields, engineering, and entrepreneurship programs.</p>	

<p>2.11.1 Advocate for allowing regional universities to establish doctoral programs, especially in science, engineering, technology, and healthcare fields.</p>	<p>The Indiana Commission on Higher Education (ICHE) has reexamined the restriction related to doctoral programs at “Regional” universities. After significant effort, PNW has successfully promoted a provision to allow applied doctoral programs at regional universities. However, the revised constraint suggests that this can only happen under exceptional circumstances. ICHE has not yet fully defined exceptional circumstances. That said, it appears that PNW will be able to award the Doctorate in Nursing Practice soon. Work is underway for an Applied Doctorate in Psychology, an Applied Doctorate in Engineering, and an Applied Doctorate in Technology.</p> <p>Support of the Forum and its members will be needed to convince ICHE that these are needed degrees.</p>
<p>2.11.2. Pursue R&D catalyst projects that leverage the components of the region’s universities.</p>	<p>PNW has been discussing components of international trade attraction/investment to the region and potential development of a working task force to attract and develop international trade opportunities in the region.</p>

	In process
	Complete
	Stalled