



For Immediate Release
Monday, June 15, 2009

For more information, contact:
Corrie Bennett
Communications Manager
PH: 317.464.2241
cbennett@indylink.com
www.IndyChamber.com

Indianapolis Chamber Enhances Common Goal Initiative with New Hires *New Common Goal manager, coordinator hired*

INDIANAPOLIS – The Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce has hired Eric Bedel and Virginia “Ginny” Babbitt to lead Common Goal, the program aspiring to raise the Marion County high school graduation rate from 70 to 80 percent within a four-year period.

“We are pleased to have talented people, such as Eric and Ginny, join the Common Goal team,” said Chamber President Roland Dorson. “Working to change a young person’s life, particularly if they come from difficult circumstances, is an arduous process, but we are clearly having a positive effect on hundreds of students in our community.”

Eric Bedel joins the Chamber as the new Common Goal manager. He has more than 32 years of management experience in the field of human resources, including positions as managing principal of an HR global consulting firm and senior vice president with a Conseco corporation. Bedel’s experience includes 12 years of senior-level consulting in the areas of project management, compensation, total rewards, communication, organizational change, talent management and leadership.

A founding board member of the Charles A. Tindley Charter School, Bedel spent three years as a teacher in the Indianapolis Archdiocese Parochial Schools and is currently an adjunct professor at the Butler University School of Business. He received a bachelor’s degree in telecommunications and a master’s degree in journalism from Ball State University.

He oversees all aspects of the Common Goal project using planning, monitoring and controlling processes. As the project manager, Bedel is responsible for coordination and completion of the project through a variety of tasks, including setting deadlines, assigning responsibilities, and monitoring and summarizing progress of the project.

Ginny Babbitt joins the team as the Common Goal coordinator, a newly created position that will place the operations of the mentoring program under the umbrella of the Chamber. She received undergrad certificates from IUPUI’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs and American Humanics and is currently pursuing a graduate certificate in nonprofit management. In addition, Babbitt has significant volunteer experience with numerous community organizations.

--more--

Babbitt oversees all aspects of the mentoring program and is responsible for its coordination and evaluation. She serves as the primary liaison between the schools enrolled in the mentoring program, the volunteer mentors and the Chamber. Volunteer management is a crucial piece of her position, which includes recruitment, relationship management, collecting and evaluating feedback, and ensuring each volunteer's and each student's experience is positive.

Bedel replaces Jessica Heiser, who left the organization to pursue degrees in law and comparative education at DePaul University and Loyola University.

###

About Common Goal

Chaired by Community Health Network President William Corley, Common Goal is a collaborative effort that includes all 11 Marion County public school superintendents, the MindTrust, City of Indianapolis, United Way of Central Indiana, Center for Leadership Development, Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL), the Urban League and the Indiana Department of Education. In addition to the targeted 80 percent graduation rate, Common Goal also will decrease the dropout rate from 7.7 percent to 5 percent by implementing customized intervention strategies. For more information, visit CommonGoalIndy.org.