



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday, July 23, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

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Institute Program Manager Appointed to State Workforce Innovation Council

Indianapolis, IN-Jessica Fraser, Program Manager of the Indiana Institute for Working Families (Institute), was appointed today by Indiana Governor Mike Pence to serve a two-year term on the State Workforce Innovation Council through June 30, 2017.

Fraser, who has led the Institute as Program Manager since 2012, has previously served on the Indiana Career Council's taskforces on Sector Strategies and Career Pathways, and on an advisory panel for the Indiana Network of Knowledge. Fraser also co-chairs the Indiana Skills2Compete Coalition with State Senator Dennis Kruse and sits on the sits on the Leadership Council of the National Skills Coalition.

Workforce development and skills training policy is an integral focus of Fraser's work with the Institute to conduct research and promote public policies to help Hoosier families achieve and maintain economic self-sufficiency, believing the education and training needs of Indiana's workforce must be addressed in order for Indiana to compete in a global economy. Additionally, the Indiana Skills2Compete Coalition promotes middle-skills education and training to help close the state's skills gap, and uses research and data to further policies that will help match the skills of Indiana's workers with the demands of its workforce.

"Jessica's appointment will help represent the workforce development and skills training needs of the low-income Hoosier families that Community Action serves throughout Indiana," said Ed Gerardot, Executive Director of the Indiana Community Action Association.

According to the state's website, the SWIC "is charged with developing opportunities for Hoosiers to gain employment and earn competitive wages. SWIC develops and implements workforce solutions based on the input of representatives and local workforce investment boards around the state. Serving as the governor's advisor, SWIC works to address Indiana's workforce needs through efficient workforce training and development programs."

The announcement by Governor Pence can be found at: <u>http://www.in.gov/activecalendar/EventList.aspx?view=EventDetails&eventidn=222118&information_id</u> <u>=216880&type=&syndicate=syndicate</u>

ABOUT THE INDIANA INSTITUTE FOR WORKING FAMILIES

The Indiana Institute for Working Families – a program of the Indiana Community Action Association (INCAA) – conducts research and promotes public policies to help Hoosier families achieve and maintain economic self-sufficiency. The Institute is the only statewide program in Indiana that combines research and policy analysis on federal and state legislation, public policies, and programs impacting low-income working families. The Institute achieves its work through advocacy and education, and through national, statewide, and community partnerships. The Institute was founded in 2004. To learn more about the Institute, please visit: www.incap.org/iiwf.html

ABOUT THE INDIANA COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION (IN-CAA)

The Indiana Community Action Association, Inc. (IN-CAA) is a statewide not-for-profit membership corporation, incorporated in the State of Indiana in 1970. IN-CAA's members are comprised of Indiana's 22 Community Action Agencies (CAAs), which serve all of Indiana's 92 counties. IN-CAA envisions a state with limited or no poverty, where its residents have decent, safe, and sanitary living conditions, and where resources are available to help low-income individuals attain self-sufficiency. IN-CAA serves as an advocate and facilitator of policy, planning and programs to create solutions and share responsibility as leaders in the War On Poverty. IN-CAA's mission is to help the state's CAAs address the conditions of poverty through: training and technical assistance; developing models for service delivery; and providing resources to help increase network capacity. For more information about IN-CAA, please visit: www.incap.org