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Mark Akers holds graduate and undergraduate degrees in business from Indiana University and has professional training in economic development at the University of Oklahoma and the University of Colorado. He is an associate adjunct professor in the School of Business at the University of Indianapolis and an adjunct professor at Indiana University, where he has won multiple teaching awards in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs and the Kelley School of Business. He also teaches at the Ningbo Institute of Technology in China for the University of Indianapolis. Professor Akers was the Director of Economic Development for the state of Indiana, including its foreign marketing efforts in Asia and Europe. He also was Director of Public Works for the City of Fort Wayne and has published several articles on economic development and growth.



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INDIANA (IN)DECISION

HOOSIERS AT AN ECONOMIC CROSSROADS



Indiana is at an economic crossroads. Its history and culture do not embrace change, yet its economy is heavily tied to manufacturing and exports—both of which are highly sensitive to the ever-changing global economy. The Hoosier state is aging and experiencing a brain drain from its universities. Its infrastructure needs repair and updating. And its public schools are average at a time when excellence is demanded. Indiana is at a point in its history when it must make decisions about the directions it will take in the future. Author Mark Akers examines the culture of Hoosiers and what makes them happy, the global economic forces that the state is facing, and describes those actions that state and local governments must implement to compete for economic growth—world-class infrastructure, the best education system anywhere, highly attractive cities and towns, meaningful incentives, and a stable, predictable, and helpful government. But even if these basic needs are addressed, can Indiana eventually prosper and develop a broad-based, innovative economy? *Indiana (In)decision* describes Indiana's dilemma of indecisiveness at a time requiring rapid decision-making about its economic future. The book is meant for everyone, not just economists or academics.

"Mark Akers in his new book zeros in on the critical issues facing Indiana's future. Will we be content to be mediocre? He tells it like it is and clearly states the challenges for our state's future. It should be required reading for legislators and other state leaders."

John Mutz, Former Lt. Governor, State of Indiana

"This is a book that definitely crosses state and national boundaries, delving into the motivational issues of who we are, what we will become, and what "makes us happy" as individuals and as communities. Politicos, educators, and economic development personnel would all do well to consider Akers' ideas. Akers has a challenge for Indiana — and other states — and a model to back that challenge up."

Mark Long, President, Long Performance Advisors (International Technology Incubator Consultants) and Instructor of Entrepreneurism at Indiana University