



For too long, political debates have outweighed what is best for students. I am committed to advocating for quality education, affordable childcare, and programs that empower our youth to succeed. If elected I would make education a top priority.

My commitment to education goes beyond the classroom. School-based learning is only a small portion of what a young person needs to be career-ready and life-ready and future-ready. I believe in supplementing a student's education outside the classroom. Traditional schools only focus on the academics, which is only the tip of the iceberg.

We must empower our youth to become leaders in their own right—to be agents of change in our community. That means providing opportunities for mentorship, leadership development, and civic engagement. It means investing in programs that support our young people, whether through internships, job training, or extracurricular activities.

Together, we can create a community where every child feels valued, supported, and empowered to chase their dreams. Where no one is left behind, and everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

**Invest in our schools:** The VCSC tried everything they could think of to convince this community that something needed to be done with the outdated North and South High Schools. The National Institute of Health has done extensive research that shows the physical setting in which learning occurs has an influence on student motivation and success. I don't have all the details as to why their efforts failed, but I don't understand how this community doesn't agree that something needs to be done- whether it's renovating or building new, I'm not ready to give up on finding an affordable solution.

**Quality Education:** I am committed to ensuring that every child has access to the tools, technology, and support they need to thrive. I will work closely with educators, parents, and community leaders to develop innovative programs that engage students and prepare them for the challenges of the 21st century. I will advocate for quality education opportunities at all levels, from early childhood education to vocational training and adult education.

I applaud the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce for seeking and receiving the \$600,000 child care grant to support employer-sponsored childcare. I hope to work with area businesses to see the benefits of participating in such a program and promote it to the best of my ability.

**Pathways Program:** I would like to further develop the success of the partnership program that is currently in place between our local high schools and Ivy Tech. My own children have participated in the pathways program and if you aren't aware of it, it is fantastic at teaching about trades and gaining skills used in various industries.

### **Youth Empowerment:**

I want to partner with local businesses, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions to create job training programs, internships, and apprenticeships for young people. These opportunities not only provide valuable work experience but also help prepare youth for future career paths.

I would like to propose creating youth advisory boards or councils composed of young people from diverse backgrounds. These advisory boards can provide valuable input on issues affecting youth, offer perspectives on policy decisions, and serve as advocates for youth-focused initiatives.