

THE ROLE OF DATA CENTERS

for Ancillary Businesses and Northwest Indiana's Technology Stack

STUDY OVERVIEW

- Independent academic analysis by Indiana University and Capital University economists
- Identifies ancillary benefits of hyperscale construction and operation in NWI.
- Models a BEA RIMS II supply-chain trace of a 1 GW / \$10B hyperscale campus with structured case research of three mature clusters.

HEADLINE FINDINGS

CONSTRUCTION PHASE

~20,133

jobs created in 3yr period

\$6.7B in regional economic output supported over a 3-year build, generating \$1.34B in regional earnings.

ONGOING OPERATIONS

~2,986

jobs supported annually

With \$550M of the annual operating retained in the seven-county region.

LOCAL RETENTION

70¢ of every dollar stays in the region

Recurring infrastructure maintenance creates sustained jobs and economic activity across the seven-county region.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

15% of property tax revenue goes to La Porte schools for 20 years

Microsoft's \$1B La Porte campus is helping build a regional workforce pipeline through the Ivy Tech–Microsoft Data Center Academy.

SIX-LAYER ECOSYSTEM FRAMEWORK

The study organizes ancillary activity into six layers:

01.

CONSTRUCTION & SKILLED TRADES

Temporary, high intensity, strong regional trades base

\$6.7B regional output + **\$1.34B** in earnings over 3 year build

02.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

Permanent recurring vendor contracts

\$330.1M/year regional output from maintenance and on-site staffing/ systems services; **1,815 jobs**

03.

ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Permanent utility investment plus field services

\$497.8M/year regional output tied to electricity demand; **1,116 jobs**

04.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Training the next generation of NWI talent

Ivy Tech, WorkOne, and **Union Apprenticeships** function as the conversion mechanism

05.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Project and recurring, with exportable expertise

\$1M - \$1.67M local architecture/ engineering demand to regional output; **8.45 jobs** per \$1M

06.

SUPPORT ECONOMY

Housing, retail, health, and civic infrastructure supported by circulating payroll

\$1.26B induced output during construction and **\$154.8M/year** annual operations

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REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

LAKE / HAMMOND

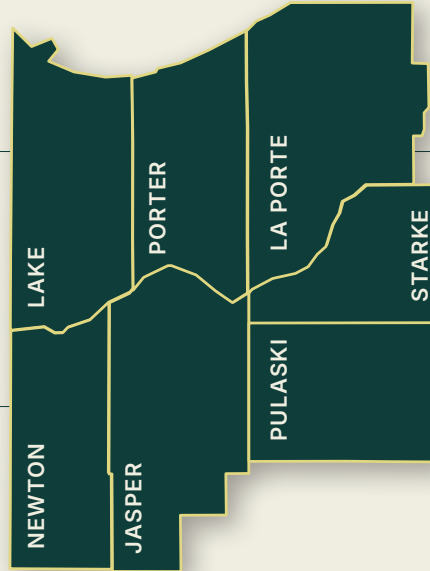
Interconnection & operating-services district (Digital Crossroad, Quantum Corridor, MSP/cyber, colocation, DR gateway)

PORTER / BURNS HARBOR

Mission-critical logistics & industrial-edge (port, all Class I railroads, Foreign-Trade Zone, spares, packaging, heavy-haul)

LAPORTE

Cloud-campus workforce & controls (Microsoft campus anchor, critical-facilities training, professional services)



JASPER / WHEATFIELD

Power-infrastructure & rural-host district (announced Amazon development, grid and civil work, water and site support)

NEWTON / PULASKI

Fiber-enabled rural services & edge (ag-tech, health, and logistics applications)

STARKE

Trades and supplier node (SCILL-supported workforce, regional project access)

EVIDENCE FROM MATURE CLUSTERS

THREE PATHWAYS FOR LOCAL BUSINESS

Case research across mature clusters documents three recurring routes by which regional businesses connect to data-center demand: incumbents adapting existing capabilities to serve new customers; outside suppliers entering the region and, over time, taking root; new investment locating for proximity benefits.



EXISTING FIRMS ADAPT

Local firms add data center-specific services or training.



SUPPLIERS FOLLOW DEMAND

Outside firms enter after recurring demand becomes visible.



PROXIMITY CREATES VALUE

Some firms locate nearby for connectivity, customers, response time, or resilience.

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