

## Matt Wells

Matt Wells is the Associate Vice Chancellor for Development and External Engagement at Purdue University Northwest, where he oversees the university's offices of development, external engagement, industry partnerships, and career services, as well as government and public affairs. Prior to this he oversaw the development and growth of a specialized career services office for PNW's College of Business, which was recognized for its contributions to substantial increases in post-graduate career placement, internship attainment, and starting salaries for business graduates. Before joining PNW, Matt worked in career services and industry engagement at Valparaiso University. Outside of academe, he also served from 2020 to 2021 as interim CEO of One Region, the private sector-led coalition of 30+ CEOs of the largest enterprises in the region focused on increasing population and household incomes in northwest Indiana. Matt currently serves as the deputy chairperson for a bi-state coalition commissioned with a master planning and activation effort for the greater south shore of Lake Michigan, with initial support from the Mansueto Foundation and project leadership from Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill. He serves on several area boards, including One Region, Angeles Investors, Big Shoulders Fund – Northwest Indiana, Campagna Academy, NWI Society of Innovators, Challenger Learning Center, and the NWI Food Council. In 2018, Matt was named as one of the *NWI Times's* "20 Under 40". He was also selected as a scholarship fellow in 2021 at the Aspen Institute's Socrates Program. Earlier in his career, Matt was briefly a professional opera singer, having completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at the Jacobs School of Music and Indiana University, and residencies at the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis and the Crested Butte Music Festival in Colorado.