

MEDIA CONTACT:

Cara Short at (317) 232-1032 or CShort@che.in.gov Allison Kuehr at (317) 232-1016 or AKuehr@che.in.gov

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State Higher Ed Commission Extends Partnership with University of Indianapolis, INvestEd to Help Indiana Dual Credit Teachers Get Credentials

The \$3 million grant provides free graduate-level courses to Indiana dual credit teachers

(INDIANAPOLIS) – The Indiana Commission for Higher Education extended its partnership with INvestEd and the Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL) at the University of Indianapolis through 2025 to offer Teach Dual Credit Indiana. Teach Dual Credit Indiana provides free graduate courses for Indiana high school educators to become fully credentialed to teach dual credit classes in communications/speech, economics, English, history, political science/government and world languages.

<u>INvestEd</u>, a statewide nonprofit, provided a \$3 million grant for Hoosier teachers to receive the necessary credit hours to become fully credentialed through Teach Dual Credit Indiana. This is the second round of funding for Teach Dual Credit Indiana. The program is administered by CELL and covers the full cost of tuition, books and fees at partner postsecondary institutions in eligible content areas.

"INvestEd's postsecondary education planning presentations stress the value of dual credit coursework in terms of future academic success and tuition savings, and have done so for years," said President and CEO of INvestEd Joe Wood. "These free, rigorous courses provide a head start towards graduating and is why INvestEd is so eager to continue to support this credentialing program for Indiana's essential dual credit educators."

Sixty-four percent of the high school graduating class of 2021 earned some form of early college credit. Additionally, the Commission's latest data show that 66 percent of students who earned dual credit enrolled in college in 2021 compared to 33 percent of their peers who did not earn dual credit. The college-going rate for students who earned dual credit is 13 percentage points greater than the statewide average of 53 percent.

"Dual credit courses are incredibly valuable for students to earn college credit while in high school – preparing them for college and saving them time and money toward completing their program of choice," said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery. "Dual credit is critical to the foundation of the Indiana College Core and is a proven tool to improve college-going rates. Through grant funding from INvestEd, the Commission is honored to continue its support for CELL's Teach Dual Credit Indiana program to remove barriers to credentialing for high school educators around the state."

CELL is encouraging educators who are interested in taking winter/spring 2024 courses through Teach Dual Credit Indiana to register as soon as possible. Registration closes on Nov. 30.

"Launching phase two of Teach Dual Credit Indiana will ensure more Indiana teachers have access to the educational opportunities they need to meet dual credit credentialing requirements. In turn, more Hoosier students will be prepared for postsecondary education through expanded dual credit offerings in high schools," said CELL's Executive Director

Carey Dahncke. "We look forward to our continued partnership with the Indiana Commission for Higher Education and INvestEd in this important work."

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About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Created in 1971, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education plans, coordinates and defines Indiana's postsecondary education system to align higher learning with the needs of students and the state. The Commission also administers Indiana's financial aid programs, including the 21st Century Scholars early college promise scholarship, which celebrated 30 years in 2020.

About INvestEd

For over 40 years INvestEd, Indiana's only state-based nonprofit financial aid advising and student loan organization, has been providing students with solutions to put education beyond high school within reach and with less debt. Friendly, free, expert financial aid help is given to students, families and counselors. At over 800 annual events as well as over the phone, in print and via email, INvestEd assists Hoosiers with the college planning and funding process. To learn more about us or to receive a free online toolkit to help plan for college costs, go to InvestedIndiana.org.