



**INDIANA COMMISSION** *for*  
HIGHER EDUCATION

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## **Ivy Tech Community College and Marian University selected as the 2023 Stan Jones Award Recipients**

*The award winners will be honored during the 2023 Student Advocates Conference*

**(INDIANAPOLIS)**— Ivy Tech Community College and Marian University have been named the winners of the 2023 Stan Jones Student Success Award as recognition for the institutions' promising student success practices. Both institutions will be honored at the [2023 Student Advocates Conference](#), an annual conference hosted by the [Indiana Commission for Higher Education](#). This year's event will be held on December 7 in a virtual format.

The theme of the conference, "Now What? A Roadmap to Programmatic Changes for Student Success," will focus on the recent historic changes to Indiana's higher education programs. Led by Commission staff and partners, attendees will hear about initiatives such as [21st Century Scholars](#) automatic enrollment, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the Indiana College Core expansion, the [My College Core](#) tool, Career and Technical Education (CTE), and programs impacting military and adult learners.

In addition to these sessions, Governor Eric J. Holcomb and Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery will engage in a fireside chat about student success and Indiana's higher education landscape around the shared items in the Commission's legislative priorities and the Governor's Next Level Agenda.

"The Student Advocates Conference amplifies the critical work being done in our classrooms and on our campuses to encourage students to enroll in and complete their postsecondary education," said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery. "This year's focus on Indiana's strategic initiatives will contribute to the larger conversation of how our programs can better support Hoosier students. I invite all thought leaders, supporters of higher education and student advocates to join us for an informative and hope-filled day."

The Stan Jones Student Success Award is named after the late Stan Jones, founder and former president of Complete College America and former Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education. The award was created in 2017 and recognizes university campuses with promising practices that support student success initiatives on their campus and beyond.

"The initiatives put forth by Ivy Tech Community College and Marian University are exemplary of the student support practices needed to advance college access and readiness," said Lowery. "Ivy Tech and Marian's dedication to Hoosier students aligns with the Commission's priorities of increasing college enrollment and completion and ensuring we have a quality workforce in Indiana. I applaud both institutions for creating innovative programs that meet the needs of our students, families and state."

**2023 Stan Jones Student Success Award Winners:**  
**Ivy Tech Community College**

Ivy Tech Community College's Ivy+ Textbooks is a digital-first, equitable access program in which students are charged a flat per-credit-hour fee for any required course materials. The program has saved students more than \$34.2 million in textbook and courseware costs. Ivy+ Textbooks is an exemplary, interdepartmental student success model that provides students with the opportunity to pursue their education with less burden of the cost of textbooks and materials.

"Ivy Tech is dedicated to providing students with an excellent education at an affordable price, and Ivy+ Textbooks is a prime example of how we're innovating to respond to the needs of today's students," said Dr. Sue Ellspermann, president, Ivy Tech Community College. "When students have first-day access to high quality course materials at an affordable and predictable price, they're able to focus their energy on what matters most: learning."

### **Marian University**

The Launch Your Future Summer Camp at Marian University is an annual, week-long program to assist local 21st Century Scholar high school students in completing Scholar Success Program (SSP) requirements and learning more about postsecondary and career options. Led by current Marian University 21st Century Scholar college mentors, the program includes opportunities for Scholars to complete any remaining ScholarTrack requirements, understand more about the 21st Century Scholars program and engage with currently enrolled 21st Century Scholars.

"We are delighted to be recognized as a 2023 Stan Jones award winner as our program allows us to empower and encourage high school students to begin their first year as college students," said Kalyn Rudow, executive director of Marian's 21st Century Scholars program. "We believe supporting high school students about college life, connecting them with current students, giving advice, and resources, supports student success and empowers them to be future leaders for service to the world."

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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 celebrates 30 years in 2020.