



INDIANA COMMISSION *for*
HIGHER EDUCATION

AGENDA

Thursday, February 9, 2017

101 West Ohio Street, Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204-4206
Tele: 317-464-4400 | Fax: 317-464-4410

www.che.in.gov



INDIANA COMMISSION *for*
HIGHER EDUCATION

**FEBRUARY COMMISSION MEETING
AGENDA**

Thursday, February 9, 2017

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

TownePlace Suites Indianapolis Park 100
By Marriott
5802 West 71st Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46278

COMMISSION MEETING

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
University Tower/Hine Hall
875 W. North Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202
Parking available in the Tower Garage (IP) or North Street Garage (XC)

STUDENT SUCCESS AND COMPLETION COMMITTEE MEETING AND BREAKFAST

8:15 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.
Presidents Room

WORKING SESSION

9:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.
Ballroom

CALL IN INFORMATION:

DIAL: 1 (605) 475-4700
PIN: 230295#

WiFi INFORMATION:

attwifi

WORKING SESSION TOPICS

- Indiana University Bloomington Master of Architecture
- Roadtrip Indiana Project
- Certificate Report and Discussion
- Scholar Success Program Update
- Legislative Update
- Next Generation Hoosier Educators Update
- Committee Report Outs

****All events take place on EASTERN TIME****

101 West Ohio Street, Suite 300 • Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-4206 • 317.464.4400 • www.che.in.gov

COMMISSION MEMBER LUNCH

11:45 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Presidents Room

Lunch Guest

Kathy Johnson, IUPUI Executive Vice Chancellor
and Chief Academic Officer

COMMISSION STAFF LUNCH

11:45 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Indiana Room

BUSINESS MEETING

1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Ballroom

CALL IN INFORMATION:

DIAL: 1 (605) 475-4700

PIN: 230295#

WiFi INFORMATION:

attwifi

- I. **Call to Order – 1:00 P.M. (Eastern)**
 - Roll Call of Members and Determination of Quorum**
 - Chair’s Remarks**
 - Officer Slate for 2017**
 - Commissioner’s Report**
 - Consideration of the Minutes of the December 8, 2016 Commission Meeting 1**

- II. **Public Square**
 - A. Exploring Careers and Workforce Demand 5
 - 1. Steve Braun, Commissioner, Department of Workforce Development
 - 2. Chris Cotterill, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Indiana Economic Development Corporation

- III. **Business Items**
 - A. Academic Degree Programs for Expedited Action 9
 - 1. Master of Science in Anesthesia to be offered by Indiana University at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
 - 2. Master of Science in Dentistry in Cariology and Operative Dentistry to be offered by Indiana University at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
 - 3. Bachelor of Science in Computer Science to be offered by Indiana University Kokomo

IV. Information Items

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V. Old Business
New Business

VI. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Commission will be on **March 9, 2017, in Noblesville, Indiana.**

**State of Indiana
Commission for Higher Education**

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, December 8, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Commission for Higher Education met in regular session starting at 1:00 p.m. at the Ivy Tech Community College Corporate College and Culinary Center, 2820 N Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN with Chairman Dan Peterson presiding.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Members Present: Dennis Bland, John Conant, Jon Costas, Susana Duarte De Suarez, Jud Fisher, Lisa Hershman, Allan Hubbard, Mika Mosier, Chris Murphy, Dan Peterson, and Caren Whitehouse.

Members Absent: Gerald Bepko, Chris LaMothe, and John Popp

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chairman Peterson began his report stating on behalf of the Commission, I would like to thank Ivy Tech Community College for your hospitality and hosting our meeting today.

Last week the Commission in partnership with USA Funds hosted the second annual Student Advocates Conference. Over 350 mentors, advisors and student advocates from around the state attended two days of informational sessions on how to better student success in our state. A follow-up evaluation and more information about these sessions can be found on the Commission's website.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lubbers began her report stating, our working session this morning gave us the opportunity to review our 2017 Legislative Agenda; I guess that means another year is almost over. It's been a year of many accomplishments at the Commission, including (to name a few): the development of a new strategic plan, Reaching Higher, Delivering Value; the integration of our ROI Report with our Gallup Indiana results into the creation of a first in the nation Value Index; as indicated by our Chair, the second Student Advocates Conference, hosting 350 leaders; the development and launching of the *You Can. Go Back.* campaign; the development and launching of the Next Generation Teacher Scholarship, a program created by the General Assembly; the successful implementation of the 21st Century Scholars Success Program. Obviously, this is just a snapshot of our work but I highlight these efforts as a way to say thank you to the members of the Commission who have been instrumental in each one.

As we look forward to the New Year, it's clear that higher education will be front and center in both national and state agendas. In particular, expect a continued focus on affordability/value as demands are rising for a greater return on investment; the role of the community college, especially as it impacts workforce alignment, employer-college partnerships and the rise of the adult student population; and new delivery models, including accelerated models, competency based education and online education. We're well positioned to engage in all these discussions.

A couple updates: On behalf of Indiana colleges and universities, we have submitted our extension application to the Higher Learning Commission. If accepted and we're encouraged that it will be, this will provide an extension until 2022 to bring our dual credit teachers in alignment with HLC expectations. We're hopeful that we will hear back from HLC by the end of the year.

In late November, the Panel to Study Alternative to the ISTEP Program (of which I have served a member) approved a series of recommendations that have now been provided to the Governor and the General Assembly, meeting our December 1st deadline. This concluded seven months of work and will serve as a framework for ongoing discussions. It's important for us that the new system adequately measures college and career readiness and reduces the need for college remediation.

I meant to mention earlier on the *You Can. Go Back.* campaign, we've had about 4,700 matches with, we've had 22,000 students who have indicated that they are applying for the Adult Student Grant, which compares to a little over 2,000 last year at this time, and we've had over 20,000 who have visited the website. But this is the good news: we've been able to go back and look at the information and of the students that we have contacted through the *You Can. Go Back.* campaign who have not been enrolled in college for at least the last two years, 9,000 of them are now enrolled. We are not going to stop at this, it is a campaign we are focused on at least until 2020. We believe this gives us an opportunity to convert people who have interests into students who are going to college.

Finally I need to make a final comment about Jerry Bepko and his contributions to CHE and the state. As I said at the dinner last night honoring Jerry, I have never known a better public servant, colleague, friend – or man. His character is impeccable. His intellect second to none. His contributions too many to count. To say we will miss him is inadequate for what we feel. God speed, dear friend.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER, 2016 COMMISSION MEETING

R-16-09.2 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approve the Minutes of the November 2016 regular meeting (Motion – Fisher, second – Hubbard, unanimously approved)

II. PUBLIC SQUARE

A. Measuring Learning with Prior Learning Assessments and Competency-Based Education

1. Beth Doyle, Interim Vice President, LearningCounts, Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)
2. Susan Hawkins-Wilding, Assistant Vice President of Academic Advising Ivy Tech Community College
3. Jason Kloth, President and CEO, Ascend Indiana

Sean Tierney moderated this session.

III. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Resolution Honoring Gerald Bepko

R-16-09.1 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Resolution Honoring Gerald Bepko (Motion – Peterson, second – Duarte De Suarez, unanimously approved)

B. Academic Degree Programs for Expedited Action

1. Bachelor of Science in Health Data Science to be offered by Indiana University at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

R-16-09.3 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education approves by consent the following academic degree programs, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Duarte De Suarez, second – Hubbard, unanimously approved)

C. Academic Degree Programs for Expedited Action

2. Bachelor of Science in Medical Imagine Technology to be offered by Indiana University Northwest
3. Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science to be offered by Indiana University South Bend
4. Bachelor of Science in Applied Health Science to be offered by Indiana University Regional Campuses

R-16-09.4 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education approves by consent the following academic degree programs, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Fisher, second – Hubbard, unanimously approved)

B. Capital Projects for Expedited Action

1. Ball State University – Dr. Don Shondell Practice Center

R-16-09.5 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education approves by consent the following capital project, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Fisher, second – Hubbard, unanimously approved)

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Academic Degree Programs Awaiting Action
- B. Academic Degree Program Actions Taken by Staff
- C. Capital Projects Awaiting Action
- D. Media Coverage
- E. Schedule of Upcoming Meetings of the Commission

**V. OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 P.M.

Dan Peterson, Chair

Chris LaMothe, Secretary

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

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PUBLIC SQUARE:

Exploring Careers and Workforce Demand

Background

As the Commission engages in discussions related to workforce demand and career exploration, it will have the opportunity to hear from Steve Braun, Commissioner of the Department of Workforce Development, and Chris W. Cotterill, Executive Vice President and General Counsel at the Indiana Economic Development Corporation.

Supporting Documents

Steve Braun Bio
Chris W. Cotterill Bio

Steve Braun
Commissioner
Department of Workforce Development

Commissioner Braun was appointed in 2014 to serve as Indiana's Commissioner of the Department of Workforce Development, which is tasked with building a highly skilled and educated Hoosier workforce that can compete in the global economy. Prior to graduating from Harvard University, Commissioner Braun was born and raised in Southern Indiana. After receiving a business degree, he immediately went to work for Price Waterhouse. Shortly after, he started his own technology consulting business that grew to over 750 employees across 13 offices nationwide. Both experiences have given him a unique understanding of the challenges facing today's workforce.



Prior to leading DWD, Commissioner Braun served in the Indiana House of Representatives, while continuing to remain active as an entrepreneur in tech companies, real estate and agriculture. Commissioner Braun and Jennifer, his wife of 31 years, reside in central Indiana where they have raised their five children, and are active members of the community.

Chris W. Cotterill

**Executive Vice President and General Counsel
Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC)**

Chris W. Cotterill is the Executive Vice President and General Counsel of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), where he oversees the compliance, financial, human resources, information technology, and legal operations, serves as corporate ethics officer, and serves as Secretary to the IEDC Board of Directors.

Prior to joining the IEDC, Cotterill was a partner at Faegre Baker Daniels LLP, where he focused on public-private partnerships and state and local government reform.

Cotterill, a graduate of Wabash College and the IU School of Law—Bloomington, began his career as a litigation attorney at Barnes & Thornburg LLP. In 2005, he joined state government as General Counsel of the Indiana Office of Technology. In 2008, Mayor Gregory A. Ballard appointed Cotterill to serve as the Corporation Counsel of Indianapolis and Marion County, and, in 2010, Cotterill was appointed Mayor Ballard's Chief of Staff.



COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

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BUSINESS ITEM A:

Academic Degree Programs for Expedited Action

Staff Recommendation

That the Commission for Higher Education approve by consent the following degree programs, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item:

- Master of Science in Anesthesia to be offered by Indiana University at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science to be offered by Indiana University Southeast
- Master of Science in Dentistry in Cariology and Operative Dentistry to be offered by Indiana University at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis

Background

The Academic Affairs and Quality (AA&Q) Committee reviewed these proposed programs at its January 27, 2017 meeting and concluded that the M.S. in Anesthesia to be offered by Indiana University at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, the B.S. in Computer Science, and the M.S.D. in Cariology and Operative Dentistry to be offered by Indiana University at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis should be placed on the Commission's February 9, 2017 agenda for expedited action.

Supporting Document

Academic Degree Programs on Which Staff Propose Expedited] Action, February 9, 2017.

Academic Degree Programs on Which Staff Propose Expedited Action
February 9, 2017

CHE 16-33 Master of Science in Anesthesia to be offered by Indiana University at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis

Proposal received on October 26, 2016
CIP Code: 51.0809
Fifth Year Projected Enrollment: Headcount – 34, FTE – 50
Fifth Year Projected Degrees Conferred: 11

The proposed Master of Science in Anesthesia (M.S.A.) will be offered through the Department of Anesthesia in the Indiana University School of Medicine and will prepare graduates to become licensed Anesthesiologist Assistants (AA). In 2014, Indiana became the 17th jurisdiction to authorize AA practice. AAs work under the direction of an anesthesiologist and perform pre- and post-operative duties as well as assist in the induction, maintenance, and emergence of a patient's anesthesia. Nationwide, there are 11 programs to prepare AAs and this will be the first such program in Indiana.

The University will seek accreditation for the program from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) through the Accreditation Review Committee (ARC) for Anesthesiologist Assistants. Graduates of the M.S.A. will be prepared to sit for the national licensing examination administered by the National Commission on the Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants (NCCAA). Successfully passing the NCCAA exam will enable the graduate to apply for a license from the Indiana Medical Licensing Board to practice as an Anesthesiologist Assistant.

CHE 16-34 Bachelor of Science in Computer Science to be offered by Indiana University Kokomo

Proposal received on December 12, 2016
CIP Code: 11.0701
Fifth Year Projected Enrollment: Headcount – 76, FTE – 68
Fifth Year Projected Degrees Conferred: 17

The only public university four-year campuses that do not offer an active baccalaureate program in Computer Science are IU East and IU Kokomo. In FY2016 baccalaureate Computer Science programs at public university campuses enrolled a total of 4,261 headcount or 3,477 FTE students and had 554 graduates. IU Kokomo does offer a B.S. in Informatics program, which enrolled 83 headcount or 61 FTE students and had 14 graduates in FY2016. The University will eventually seek accreditation from ABET for the proposed program.

The proposed B.S. in Computer Science requires 120 semester hours of credit, thus meeting the standard credit hour expectation for baccalaureate degrees. The University affirms that the proposed program is consistent with the Transfer Single Articulation Pathway (TSAP) for Computer Science, meaning it fully articulates with related associate

degrees at Ivy Tech Community College and Vincennes University, thus allowing graduates of these institutions to apply 60 transfer credit hours toward meeting B.S. degree requirements.

CHE 16-35 Master of Science in Dentistry in Cariology and Operative Dentistry to be offered by Indiana University at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis

Proposal received on December 12, 2016

CIP Code: 51.0504

Fifth Year Projected Enrollment: Headcount – 12, FTE – 11

Fifth Year Projected Degrees Conferred: 4

The proposed Master of Science in Dentistry (M.S.D.) in Cariology and Operative Dentistry will be offered through the Indiana University School of Dentistry, the only such school in the state. In FY2016, the School enrolled 568 headcount students and graduated 115 students from its Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) program. That same year, the School's only master's program, the M.S./M.S.D. in Dentistry, had 126 headcount or 103 FTE students enrolled and 39 graduates. The M.S.D. in Cariology and Operative Dentistry will prepare graduates to pursue evidence-based research related to the development of preventive and operative therapies and procedures in clinical practice. Students will be able to utilize the laboratories and clinic of the IUPUI Oral Health Research Institute.

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INFORMATION ITEM A: Academic Degree Programs Awaiting Action

	<u>Institution/Campus/Site</u>	<u>Title of Program</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Status</u>
01	Indiana University Bloomington	Master of Architecture	6/28/2016	Under Review
02	Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis	Master of Science in Anesthesia (IU)	10/26/2016	On CHE Agenda for Action
03	Indiana University Kokomo	Bachelor of Science in Computer Science	12/12/2016	On CHE Agenda for Action
04	Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis	Master of Science in Dentistry in Cariology and Operative Dentistry (IU)	12/12/2016	On CHE Agenda for Action
05	Indiana University Southeast	Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies in Art and Humanities	12/12/2016	Under Review

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INFORMATION ITEM B: Academic Degree Program Actions Taken by Staff

	<u>Institution/Campus/Site</u>	<u>Title of Program</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>	<u>Change</u>
01	Ivy Tech Community College –Multiple Locations	Associate of Science in Respiratory Therapy	1/27/2017	Changing the name of program
02	Indiana University Bloomington	Bachelor of Science in Computational Linguistics	1/27/2017	Changing CIP code
03	Indiana University Kokomo	Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging Technology	1/27/2017	Adding distance education
04	Indiana University Northwest	Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging	1/27/2017	Adding distance education
05	Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis	Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging Technology (IU)	1/27/2017	Adding distance education
06	Indiana University South Bend	Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging Technology	1/27/2017	Adding distance education
07	Ivy Tech Community College-Multiple Locations	Certificate in Business Administration	1/27/2017	Adding a certificate
08	Vincennes University	Certificate of Completion in Manufactured Housing Component Assemblies	1/27/2017	Suspending a program

	<u>Institution/Campus/Site</u>	<u>Title Program</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>	<u>Change</u>
09	Vincennes University	Certificate of Completion in Manufactured House Core Objectives	1/27/2017	Suspending a program
10	Vincennes University	Certificate of Graduation in Information Technology	1/27/2017	Adding a certificate
11	Vincennes University	Certificate of Graduation in Automotive Service Technology	1/27/2017	Adding a certificate
12	Vincennes University	Certificate of Graduation in Auto Body Repair	1/27/2017	Adding a certificate
13	Vincennes University	Certificate of Graduation in Construction Carpenter Assistant	1/27/2017	Adding a certificate
14	Vincennes University	Certificate of Graduation in Computer Networking Fundamentals	1/27/2017	Adding a certificate
15	Vincennes University	Certificate of Graduation in Diesel Service and Maintenance	1/27/2017	Adding a certificate
16	Vincennes University	Certificate in Graduation in Machinery Repair Assistant	1/27/2017	Adding a certificate

	<u>Institution/Campus/Site</u>	<u>Title of Program</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>	<u>Change</u>
17	Vincennes University	Certificate of Completion in Right Skills NOW CNC Machining	1/27/2017	Adding a certificate
18	Vincennes University	A.S in Pharmacy Technology	1/27/2017	Changing the name of program
19	Indiana University Southeast	Master of Science in Information Systems Management	1/27/2017	Changing the number of credit hours
20	Ivy Tech Community College-Multiple Locations	Bachelors of Science in Information Systems Management	1/27/2017	Changing CIP Code
21	Ivy Tech Community College – Multiple Locations	Electrical Specialist – Certificate	1/27/2017	Changing CIP code
22	Ivy Tech Community College – Multiple Locations	Electrical Specialist – Technical Certificate	1/27/2017	Changing CIP code
23	Ivy Tech Community College – Multiple Locations	Energy Technology – Technical Certificate	1/27/2017	Eliminating the program
24	Ivy Tech Community College – Multiple Locations	ASS in Energy Technology	1/27/2017	Eliminating the program
25	Ivy Tech Community College – Multiple Locations	Renewable Energy Technology- Technical Certificate	1/27/2017	Changing the name of program

	<u>Institution/Campus/Site</u>	<u>Title of Program</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>	<u>Change</u>
26	Ivy Tech Community College – Multiple Locations	TC in Natural Gas Technology	1/27/2017	Adding a certificate from existing degree program
27	Ivy Tech Community College – Multiple Locations	TC in Power Plant Technology	1/27/2017	Adding a certificate from existing degree program
28	Ivy Tech Community College – Multiple Locations	TC in Power Plant Technology	1/27/2017	Adding a certificate from existing degree program
29	Ivy Tech Community College – Multiple Locations	TC in Electric Line Technology	1/27/2017	Adding a certificate from existing degree program
30	Purdue University West Lafayette	MS in Management – Global Supply Chain Management	1/27/2017	Splitting a degree
31	Purdue University - IPFW	Certificate in Advance Manufacturing Engineering	1/27/2017	Adding a Certificate from existing degree program

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INFORMATION ITEM C:

Capital Projects Awaiting Action

I. NEW CONSTRUCTION

A-9-09-1-12 Indiana University Southeast
New Construction of Education and Technology Building
Project Cost: \$22,000,000
Submitted to the Commission on January 19, 2010

The Trustees of Indiana University request authorization to proceed with the new construction of the Education and Technology Building on the Indiana University Southeast campus. The new building would be a 90,500 GSF facility and provide expanded space for the IU School of Education and Purdue University College of Technology. The expected cost of the project is \$22,000,000 and would be funded from 2009 General Assembly bonding authority. This project was not recommended by the Commission as part of the biennial budget recommendation.

STATUS: The project is being held by the Commission until funds are identified to support the project.

B-1-08-1-02 Purdue University West Lafayette
Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory BSL-3 Facility
Project Cost: \$30,000,000
Submitted to the Commission on July 9, 2007

Purdue University seeks authorization to proceed with the construction of the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory BSL-3 Facility on the West Lafayette campus. The expected cost of the project is \$30,000,000 and would be funded from 2007 General Assembly bonding authority. This project was not recommended by the Commission as part of the biennial budget recommendation.

STATUS: The project is being held by the Commission until funds are identified to support the project.

II. REPAIR AND REHABILITATION

None.

III. LEASES

None.

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

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INFORMATION ITEM D: **Media Coverage**

Staff has selected a compilation of recent media coverage related to the Commission for February. Please see the following pages for details.

Inside Indiana Business
Scholarship Focuses on Attracting, 'Uplifting' Teachers
Dan McGowan
December 5, 2016

The deadline to apply for a program that could pay prospective teachers \$30,000 in scholarships is looming. Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers says the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship is a way the state can grow more of its own teachers, especially in rural areas. The scholarship was approved by the General Assembly earlier this year. It offers students who become teachers \$7,500 per year toward their bachelor's degree if they get hired by an Indiana school and stay in-state and in the profession for at least five years.

Lubbers tells Inside INdiana Business Television another objective of the program is to "uplift the profession." She said "there's a companion piece to this, a complimentary piece to what we're trying to do. In addition to providing scholarships for people so that they will go into the field of education and won't have debt when they leave, we also want to uplift the profession of teaching so that more people will think of it as a meaningful career, which we know it is."

Lubbers says shortages exist for STEM and special education teachers and she hopes programs like the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship and other initiatives taken on by the commission can attract more teachers to rural areas, which are also in-demand. "We know that about 61 percent of people who go into education teach within 15 miles of the district from which they graduate, so when you look at especially some of these rural areas, this is the best way to get people to come back."

House Speaker Brian Bosma (R-88) [authored the bill](#) that launched the program. The legislature set aside \$10 million for the program.

Applications [are being accepted now](#) and the deadline to apply is December 31.

Chalkbeat Indiana
Where are the teachers? A new state program offers money to future educators but many spots remain open
Shina Cavazos
December 6, 2016

A [scholarship program](#) for prospective teachers that lawmakers hoped would stem the [state's teacher shortage](#) has so far filled only half of its available spots.

Up to 200 high-achieving high school seniors could receive \$7,500 for college tuition each year in exchange for a promise to teach in Indiana for five years after graduation. But with less than a month to go before the application period closes on Dec. 31, just 103 students have applied.

Of those, only seven are from Marion County, and none of the applicants are graduates of Indianapolis Public Schools.

“We expect to see a big surge at the end,” said Stephanie Wilson, a spokeswoman for the Commission for Higher Education, the state agency that administers the program. “But we’re understandably digging into the applications a bit to see who’s applying.”

The scholarship program — called the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship — was approved by the state legislature last spring in response to [news](#) that the number of educators applying for state teaching licenses had dropped, along with enrollment in teachers colleges.

That has led to a teaching shortage in some districts, especially urban and rural districts with high numbers of low-income kids. Many schools also report shortages in certain subjects like science and special education.

Lawmakers, who set aside \$10.5 million for the new scholarships, hoped that the program would make a bigger splash.

Before the application window opened for the first time last month, the Commission ran ads on television and radio in hopes of attracting a large group of future teachers.

Wilson says the higher education commission is working to continue to spread the word before the application deadline, but schools and districts can also play a big role in notifying their students. She said people probably might just be waiting until the last minute, but she also knows schools and districts are busy, and the program could be getting lost in the shuffle.

“In some districts we’ve seen some leadership where superintendents are actually calling principals to say ‘Hey, identify at least one student in your building who would be a good candidate for this,’” Wilson said. “I think that makes a big difference. (Principals) get lots of emails from lots of government agencies. It’s just a matter of breaking through the constant bombardment that they get.”

To qualify for the scholarship, students must either graduate in the top 20 percent of their senior class or earn a score in the top 20th percentile on the SAT or ACT. If they earn a 3.0 GPA and complete 30 class credit hours per year, they can continue to receive the scholarship. Once they graduate, students will have to get their teaching license.

Students who are interested in applying must be nominated by a teacher and then submit the nomination form to the Commission. Those who will be considered for a scholarship spot will then take part in interviews with local community, business and education leaders from across the state.

For more information about the scholarship program, check out the [Commission for Higher Education’s website](#).

Northwest Indiana Times
Educators keeping 21st Century Scholars on track
Carmen McCollum
December 4, 2016

Now in its 25th year, Indiana's 21st Century Scholarship program has helped more than 70,000 students get college scholarships and nearly 30,000 earn a college degree.

But in 2013, the program established certain basic requirements to help scholars establish habits that would foster college and career success, and Ivy Tech Community College Gary President Marlon Mitchell is warning that too many students, especially in Lake County, have not completed them and could lose their scholarships.

Mitchell said too many students risk losing the scholarship, and something must be done quickly.

The 21st Century Scholarship program, now called the Evan Bayh 21st Century Scholarship program, was launched in 1990 and provides a student up to four years of undergraduate tuition at any participating public college or university in Indiana.

Subsequently, a student is required to maintain a 2.5 grade point average throughout high school. Students can apply to be a 21st Century Scholar only in sixth, seventh or eighth grade.

The newer 2013 requirements, called the Scholar Success Program, involve certain minimum activities.

Each grade level has three activities students must complete each year. Scholars can complete the specific steps for their grade level and track their progress using ScholarTrack, a computer system that allows scholars to go online and add their information.

The required activities at the freshman level include creating a graduation plan, participating in an extracurricular activity and watching a short video called, "Paying for College 101."

High school sophomores must take a career interest assessment, get workplace experience and estimate the costs of college. High school juniors are required to visit a college campus, take a college entrance exam (ACT or SAT) and search for scholarships.

High school seniors are required to submit a college application, watch a video called, "College Success 101," and file the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form.

Scholars falling behind

According to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, in March, 80 percent of 21st Century student scholars had not completed the eligibility requirements. As of November, that number had dropped to 43 percent.

However in Lake County, more than 70 percent of eligible candidates for the scholarship were not in compliance, Mitchell said.

"The Indiana Commission for Higher Education is working diligently to address the large number of students falling behind on the program's mandates," he said.

"Although state officials are working on making students aware of the new requirements, I am afraid that it will not be enough to service the large numbers of students we have in Lake County."

Lowell High School guidance counselors Christina Thomas and Ginger Marinkovich, and guidance director Connie Richie, said they called all the 21st Century Scholars into the office in spring 2014 to talk to them about the new requirements and find out how students were progressing on getting them completed.

"We had them create the accounts, and each year we meet with them in the spring and encourage them to complete each activity," Richie said.

Added Thomas, "It's supposed to be the student and parent's responsibility to get this done but when we originally got the information that first year, none of the students had set up the account. We called our students in, because we didn't want to leave it to chance. I think they just needed someone to sit down and explain to them that this was a necessary component."

Lowell High School seniors Trevor Gilliam, Karoline Chraponski and Adam Sczurko are among the students who are up-to-date.

"I remember the meeting freshman year where we talked about it, and they emphasized we'd have to keep up with it each year," Gilliam said. "Not everyone had completed it so we had more meetings over the course of the next few years and we're all up-to-date now."

Most of the students also have visited colleges already, another requirement of the program.

Sczurko visited Purdue University Northwest in Hammond but is planning a move to Indianapolis to attend Indiana University Purdue University's campus there.

Educators work on solution

Mitchell, along with Roy Hamilton, assistant vice chancellor of educational opportunity programs at Purdue University Northwest at the Hammond campus; Fred Jackson, Northwest Indiana regional outreach coordinator for the Indiana Commission for Higher Education; and Tyrone Spann, 21st Century Scholar coordinator, have formed an organization called the Northwest Indiana College Success Coalition.

The group intends to visit high schools across the Region to make sure students complete the eligibility requirements. Mitchell said the most critical need is in Lake County.

Hamilton said the issue is especially critical at urban schools such as Gary's West Side Leadership Academy, where only 20 percent of 21st Century Scholars have completed their eligibility requirements. He said about 21 percent of the scholars at Gary Roosevelt College and Career Academy have completed the requirements, and about 76 percent at Gary's Wirt-Emerson.

By contrast, 81 percent of the scholars at Hammond Clark High School and 100 percent of the scholars at Lowell High School have completed their eligibility requirements.

Jackson said it's not too late for high school seniors to complete the eligibility requirements. He said students can go online to look at the requirements and complete those items before graduation.

"If a student is a sophomore now, they can look ahead to the requirements for juniors and seniors and complete them early," Jackson said.

Educators also are concerned that students maintain a satisfactory grade level once they are enrolled in college, complete 30 credit hours each school year and stay on track to graduate from college on time.

Mitchell said some students did not maintain the drug-free requirement or the satisfactory grade and were dropped from the program after enrolling in college.

Spann said mentors are important for college students, especially 21st Century Scholars who also may be first-generation college students.

"The Commission put these things in place to improve a student's ability to graduate," Spann said. "It's important to have a mentor in college. The college experience is different from the high school experience, and we want students to be able to navigate that college experience successfully."

The Herald Bulletin
Editorial: Scholarship good incentive to find our future educators
December 9, 2016

It's difficult for a student to learn when there's no one to teach him. And that's an all-too-common problem for children in the Hoosier State.

Indiana is facing a serious shortage of teachers. A survey of school superintendents earlier this year revealed 162 of the 290 districts in the state had shortages, with the biggest deficits in special education, science, math and English.

These areas of education are critical, not only for the students who need to learn them but for the school districts that are held accountable for scores in statewide testing in these disciplines.

Shortages are even cropping up in grade levels — like elementary schools — that not so long ago would have had hundreds of applicants.

And colleges are reporting their students simply aren't interested in pursuing a career in education. Pay and test-based performance evaluations are just a few of the reasons they're shying away.

So where do we find our next teachers?

They're in the same place they've always been — the classrooms and hallways in our high schools.

They just need a little incentive to follow a path that leads them to teaching.

And there's an interesting carrot being dangled in front of them.

Anderson Community Schools superintendent Terry Thompson has asked his staff to identify students in their hallways that would make good educators.

These future teachers would be eligible for the Indiana Commission for Higher Education's Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship, which provides up to \$7,500 a year for college. In return, recipients must commit to teaching for five years in Indiana.

Two hundred of the scholarships will be awarded across the state, after an interview process.

Who better than to find the next generation of educators than those in the trenches each day?

Students should be cautious, however, in pursuing the scholarship simply for the free education.

A teacher's job isn't easy. There's long hours, low pay, ever-changing standards, dealing with bullying. And it isn't going to get any easier.

The scholarship is a great incentive, and it should be matched with the right kids who will be committed to leading our classrooms and shaping our future farmers, inventors, CEOs and, of course, teachers.

Northwest Indiana Times
Editorial: Don't let scholarships slip away
December 9, 2016

The statewide impact of Indiana's 21st Century Scholarship program is apparent in the numbers.

In its 25 years, the program helped more than 70,000 students secure college scholarships and some 30,000 obtain degrees, according to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education.

Many of these students wouldn't have possessed the means to attend college otherwise.

So it's disheartening that 70 percent of the eligible candidates for the scholarships in Lake County haven't complied with some basic requirements and are at risk of losing the stipends.

Parents and their high school students who've been approved for the scholarships need to buckle down now and do what it takes to keep this opportunity from evaporating.

The requirements are reasonably straightforward.

High school freshmen pre-approved for the scholarships must create a graduation plan, participate in an extracurricular activity and watch a short video, "Paying for College 101."

Sophomores must take a career interest assessment, obtain some form of workplace experience and estimate the cost of their future college education.

Juniors must visit a college campus, take a college entrance exam and search for other scholarships. And seniors are required to submit a college application, watch a video, "College Success 101," and file the federal Free Application for Student Aid form.

Most of these requirements are rudimentary tasks either helpful to or required for all prospective college students.

As a Region, we must encourage all of our children and young adults to pursue any and all opportunities for self-enrichment and academic success.

These life opportunities are too great, and too scarce, to forfeit.

Chalkbeat
Dual credit classes are safe for now. Teachers have five years to get new training.
Shaina Cavazos
December 21, 2016

Indiana's popular [dual credit](#) classes are safe — at least for the next five years.

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education [announced yesterday](#) that it had received a five-year reprieve from tough new rules that will require all teachers of dual credit classes to have a master's degree or 18 graduate credits in their subject area.

Dual credit classes enable students to take college-level courses and earn college credits while still high school.

The classes had been in danger because most of the high school teachers leading the classes — almost 75 percent — do not currently meet the new, higher requirements that were initially planned to take effect in 2017. Now, those teachers have until 2022 to get up to speed.

"We are pleased that the accreditor has granted our colleges this extra time to ensure Indiana's teachers have sufficient time to meet these new requirements," said Indiana Higher Education Commissioner Teresa Lubbers.

The rule change was [announced in fall of 2015](#), which immediately put some schools and leaders on high-alert as they realized their popular classes could be put in jeopardy. Under state law, Indiana high schools are required to offer at least two dual credit classes.

Some state education officials and many educators still oppose the rule change, saying the advanced education is not necessarily needed for teachers who have spent years teaching the dual credit courses.

Lawmakers are [already discussing](#) ways they might help teachers pay for the extra training through [laws passed](#) by the Indiana General Assembly last year.

Northwest Indiana Times
Application deadline approaching for Indiana's new teacher scholarship program
Dan Carden
December 22, 2016

Top-ranked high school seniors interested in becoming teachers have less than two weeks remaining to apply for a renewable \$7,500-a-year state-funded college scholarship.

The new Next Generation Teacher Scholarship will be awarded in April to 200 students statewide as part of a legislative initiative to produce more high-quality Hoosier educators and reduce Indiana's teacher shortage.

At least 22 scholarships tentatively are designated for Northwest Indiana residents. But so far, only 12 applications have been submitted from the Region, according to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education.

Scholarship applications are available online at LearnMoreIndiana.org/NextTeacher and must be submitted by Dec. 31, with a nomination from a current teacher and a 500-word essay on why the applicant wants to become a teacher.

Applicants should be set to graduate in the top fifth of their high school class or have scored at least a 26 on the ACT exam or 1190 on the SAT. Recent graduates and current college students meeting those criteria also may apply.

Scholarship winners are required to complete 30 credit hours a year in college with a 3.0 cumulative grade point average to continue receiving the annual \$7,500 award. Students are limited to \$30,000 in total scholarship funds.

The money can be used to attend any public or private university in Indiana with a teacher training program.

After graduation, students must teach in Indiana for five consecutive years, or repay 20 percent of the scholarship for each of the five years they don't teach.

The \$1.5 million annual state cost for each scholarship class initially will be covered using excess revenue collected through Indiana's 2015 tax amnesty program.

IndyStar
State avoids major hit to high school program
Chelsea Schneider
December 27, 2016

At a Thursday afternoon meeting on the University of Southern Indiana campus, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education approved their funding recommendations for the 2017-19 biennium budget.

Cindy Brinker, USI's vice president for government and university relations, said the only similarities in USI's requests and the commission's recommendation is \$41 million funding for phase II of the Physical Activities Center classroom expansion and renovation project, and funding for increased campus security.

USI officials requested \$750,000 in both 2017-18 and 2018-19 to fund a contract with the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office. The request is for permanent funding.

USI's requests also included more than \$3.7 million for general repair and rehabilitation of the university's facilities. However, the commission recommended \$931,336 in both 2018 and 2019.

Brinker said next steps include both USI officials and the commission to present to Indiana's State Budget Agency. The final budget will be within the Indiana General Assembly biennial budget bill.

In other action Thursday, the commission also approved allowing USI to proceed with financing and renovation of the \$8 million classroom renovation and expansion of 26,000 square feet on the third floor of the Health Professions Center. Funding for the project comes from 2015 General Assembly appropriation.

The project will provide more space for USI's nursing and health science classes, which are at capacity.

Currently, the Indiana University School of Medicine-Evansville uses the space, but will relocate to the new Downtown medical campus.

USI Vice President for Finance and Administration Steve Bridges estimated that construction would start in early January.

Commissioner Teresa Lubbers said the commission travels to different institutions across the state for part of the year, while the other part is spent in Indianapolis. It had been two years since a meeting was held at USI.

"We think it's important to get around on the campuses ... on a rotating basis," Lubbers said.

Kokomo Tribune
Scholarship deadline approaching
December 25, 2016

Students interested in becoming teachers have until Dec. 31 to apply for the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship, which provides up to \$7,500 each year of college for students who commit to teaching in Indiana for five years after earning their degrees.

“This scholarship is designed to attract Indiana’s best and brightest to the teaching profession, preparing a new generation of Indiana teachers to educate Hoosier students,” Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers said. “We know that having competent teachers in the classroom is one of the most important factors affecting students’ educational success, so we’re doing what we can to attract those individuals to the profession.”

To qualify for the scholarship, students must either graduate in the highest 20 percent of their high school class or earn a score in the top 20th percentile on the SAT or ACT. To continue earning the scholarship in college, students must earn a 3.0 cumulative GPA and complete at least 30 credit hours per year.

Two hundred Next Generation Hoosier Educator scholarships will be awarded to students in a competitive process based on academic achievement, teacher nomination and an interview. The Commission will review applications and select finalists by Jan. 31, 2017. Finalists will be interviewed at eight regional sites across the state. Students selected to receive the scholarship will be notified by April 15, 2017.

Indiana House Speaker Brian Bosma authored legislation that created the Next Generation Hoosier Educator Scholarship, which received bipartisan support during the 2016 legislative session.

Visit LearnMoreIndiana.org/NextTeacher for more information and to apply.

Wall Street Journal
States aim to lure college dropouts back to school
December 26, 2016

Adults across Tennessee are being blasted with a message on television, radio and highway billboards: Finish what you started.

State education officials have spent \$1 million in the past year to advertise their Tennessee Reconnect program, an initiative aimed at bringing college dropouts back to school. Public and private institutions are mining student records and reaching out to people who have made it more than halfway to graduation. Churches and job centers are also promoting the program.

“We’re doing everything, all at once,” said Mike Krause, executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, which aims to boost the share of Tennessee adults with college degrees to 55% by 2025 from 38% today. “It takes a very diverse approach to move the needle.” Mr. Krause added that the state should start seeing enrollment results in the spring.

Tennessee is among a number of states seeking to boost the ranks of college graduates and improve local economies. After enticing more people through the high-school-to-college pipeline with better counseling and financial aid, they’re now turning to former students as the best bet for prospective students.

Last month, Mississippi’s public universities announced plans for Complete 2 Compete, a program encouraging adults to return to school for a degree. Iowa, North and South Dakota and cities including Albuquerque, N.M., and Louisville, Ky., also have been pursuing so-called comeback programs, and often include financial incentives like grants and credit for work experience to minimize the financial sting of tuition.

The stakes for failing to produce an educated workforce are getting higher. Nearly 37 million working adults nationwide have some college credits but no associate or bachelor’s degree, according to a Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of census data. Yet by 2020, the center projects, 35% of job openings will require at least a bachelor’s degree, up from 32% in 2010. States are desperate to lure those employers that need high-skilled—and well-paid—workers.

A 2013 report from the left-leaning Economic Policy Institute found that median wages hovered around \$15 an hour in states where 30% or less of working adults had bachelor’s degrees. For states where more than 40% had bachelor’s degrees, median hourly wages were \$19 to \$20, an annual difference of \$10,000 for full-time employees.

Bryan McBride, a 39-year-old insurance-account manager from the Nashville area, took the college plunge again with help from Tennessee Reconnect after finding information about the program online.

Guided by phone calls with an adviser, he signed up for online classes at Columbia State Community College this fall and is close to earning an associate degree in business administration. His tuition costs are fully covered by state grants and scholarships.

Mr. McBride spent about two years at Middle Tennessee State University in the mid-1990s, had a family, switched from working part time to full time at an insurance office, and just never found time to go back, he says.

But now “I’ve tapped out what I can do” at work, he says, estimating that three-quarters of his colleagues with the same title have degrees.

Mr. McBride says giving up his nights and weekends hasn’t been easy. “But free education? I can’t believe anyone would turn that down,” he said.

Yet many are, especially as nontraditional educational programs gain steam.

Since February, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education has sent 270,000 emails and 125,000 postcards—and made 30,000 phone calls—to adults who left school without a degree in the past 10 years and now reside in the state. It aims for 60% of adult residents to have postsecondary credentials by 2025.

By early December, 9,000 of those targeted by Indiana’s You Can. Go Back. campaign have re-enrolled in school, and about 22,000 people—10 times the typical number—have applied for a \$1,000 grant earmarked for adult students. The state hopes to get 200,000 adults back to college through the \$300,000 campaign.

There is a chance that state officials aren’t factoring in the large numbers of adults who hold vocational certificates or alternative credentials, which often lead to jobs that pay better than those for associate-degree holders, earnings data show.

Caleb Francis left Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis after three semesters. Now 23 and working as a software developer at a startup in Indianapolis, he isn’t sure returning to campus would help his career.

Mr. Francis landed a job soon after completing a three-month coding boot camp at Iron Yard, a chain of coding schools, earning a starting salary in the \$40,000-to-\$50,000 range. “That’s definitely something you can live on here,” he said, adding that he was employed six months before his original college graduation date.

Mr. Francis’ experience underlines that going back to college can be a hard sell.

“It’s a tough population. Their lives are complicated,” said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers. “We have to keep our foot on the pedal, keep reminding people, keep contacting them.”

Indianapolis Business Journal
New scholarship for teaching garners interest from students
Sarah Ramon
January 14, 2017

More than 600 hopeful Hoosier students will compete for one of 200 scholarships that will provide up to \$7,500 annually to those who agree to teach in the state for at least five years after graduation.

House Speaker Brian Bosma, R-Indianapolis, crafted legislation last year creating the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship, which will be administered by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education.

The \$7,500 annual scholarship will cover about one-third of costs at a public college in Indiana beginning in the 2017-2018 academic year. The median cost in a public college in Indiana is \$21,000 per year.

A total of 643 students, two-thirds of whom are high school age, applied for the scholarship. Applicants represent 273 high schools in 84 of the state’s counties.

To qualify, applicants must either graduate from an Indiana public or private high school in the top 20 percent of their high school class or earn a score in the top 20th percentile on the SAT or ACT. After graduation, students must teach at an eligible Indiana school for at least five consecutive years.

Recipients will be selected through a competitive process based on the student's academic achievement, teacher nomination and in-person interview.

Journal Gazette
Hoosier teens have help on path to scholarship
Teresa Lubbers
January 23, 2017

Since 1990, Indiana's 21st Century Scholars program has helped thousands of low-income Hoosier students aspire to and afford a college education. Nearly 110,000 21st Century Scholars are enrolled across the state from 7th grade through college, and more than 30,000 students have earned a degree using the 21st Century Scholarship.

Over the last several years, the program has evolved with a single goal: to ensure more scholars are prepared to complete college. Scholars are now required to earn a 2.5 high school GPA, and the most significant change has been the addition of the Scholar Success Program. The Scholar Success Program, approved by the General Assembly in 2012, is made up of 12 college and career readiness activities – three per year – that scholars must complete during high school to earn their scholarship.

The activities, created by a diverse group of educators and community partners, are steps all college-bound students should take, such as visiting a college campus, researching college costs, exploring career paths and filing the FAFSA. Nearly all activities can be completed independently, and scholars have flexibility in completion. For example, they can visit a college campus virtually if they are unable to visit in person.

In the past, too many of Indiana's 21st Century Scholars started college but didn't finish. It's imperative we provide scholars with the ability to succeed in college, and that means arming students with the knowledge of how to thrive on a college campus – including not only an academic and career plan, but things as simple as providing an avenue for tutoring and guidance.

Across the state, we're hearing from educators and partners that these supports are crucial to scholars' success.

The clock is ticking for Indiana's class of 2017 21st Century Scholars. Current high school seniors are the first group of scholars required to complete the Scholar Success Program.

To date, 84 percent of senior scholars have ScholarTrack accounts to track their activity progress, and 27 percent have completed all 12 activities, up three percentage points from December 2016. Scholars who do not complete all required activities by June 30 of their senior year will not receive their scholarship.

While current scholars are on track to surpass the historic average of students who receive the scholarship, we must persist in efforts to improve this number.

The Commission for Higher Education continues to partner with community organizations, businesses and schools across the state to ensure scholars have every opportunity to complete the required activities. Thousands of emails, phone calls and text messages are being sent, and events are taking place throughout Indiana to assist scholars in completing their activities.

We know that the path to success for Hoosiers and our state comes through completing education beyond high school, and we believe the Scholar Success Program is an essential way to keep scholars on track.

As more jobs in Indiana – and the nation – require a quality credential, we must double down on efforts that ensure more Hoosiers are prepared for a 21st century career.

The Indiana Lawyer
College savings plan benefits could expand
Dave Stafford
January 25, 2017

Hoosier parents who've put aside money for their children's education in 529 college savings plans have recognized the benefits of doing so for 20 years. Now, state and federal lawmakers are considering making the tax-deductible plans even more attractive.

Indiana Treasurer Kelly Mitchell and Higher Education Commissioner Teresa Lubbers marked the 20th anniversary of 529 plans in the state during an event at the Capitol Jan. 18. Down the hall, lawmakers were proposing new incentives for savers and for employers to contribute to the plans.

"I'm a big fan of 529 plans and college savings, and I just sat down and thought about different ways we can enable more access to a larger group of people," said Sen. Eric Koch, R-Bedford, sponsor of Senate Bill 412. He said its key provisions would:

- provide employers a deduction of up to \$1,000 for contributions to their employees' 529 plans;
- provide a state match of up to \$250 for 529 plan contributions by lower-income Hoosiers;
- allow taxpayers to designate all or part of an income tax return as a 529 contribution, and;
- prohibit counting 529 funds as part of means-testing eligibility for other benefits.

Koch's bill was set for its initial hearing before the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee on Jan. 24. At IL deadline, a fiscal note regarding the cost to the state of providing the additional proposed benefits was not available.

"The philosophy behind this bill is enabling more access to a larger universe of Hoosiers to the benefits

of college savings,” he said.

Already, though, hundreds of thousands of people have benefitted from the plans in the two decades they have been made available. According to data provided by Mitchell, Indiana 529 plans contain contributions of \$3.6 billion in about 317,000 total accounts. The average account balance is \$11,340, and \$294 million was used for education expenses from 529 plans in 2016.

“These numbers will continue to rise as more and more future learners and their loved ones learn of the benefits of the CollegeChoice 529,” Mitchell said.

Since 2007, Hoosier taxpayers have been able to deduct 20 percent of the value of their annual 529 contributions up to a total of \$1,000, said Troy Montigney, executive director of the Indiana Education Savings Authority.

“That’s one of the more generous 529-related tax incentives in the country, and it’s been a tremendous catalyst for encouraging participation in our plans,” Montigney said.

“We’re broadly supportive of any enhancement to CollegeChoice 529 plans,” he said. “To me, the breadth of (Koch’s) bill as it stands is fairly impressive. We’re supportive of any enhancements the General Assembly decides it would like to extend.”

Few states provide either a direct contribution to college saving plans or tax credits for employer contributions, Montigney said. “We believe wholeheartedly employers should support education savings of their employees any way they can. If that were to pass, we would aggressively promote that around the state.”

In Congress, lawmakers on Jan. 13 introduced House Bill 529, which would also offer employers incentives to start or contribute to plans for their workers and also would increase the opportunities for families to make contributions to these plans. The bill offered by Rep. Lynn Jenkins, R-Kansas, was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

“529 plans started with the simple goal of encouraging families to save for college education,” Mitchell said. But as aid sources covered less of the rising costs of college, “They’ve become a critical component in helping families achieve their educational dream.”

Lubbers was in the General Assembly when the legislation authorizing 529 plans passed unanimously in 1996. “Everyone realized at that point why it was so important to begin to send a message to students and families that not only did you need to be academically ready to go to college, but you needed to be financially prepared as well. ... The issue of value has become more important than ever,” she said.

“We now know that in the United States, where we’ve reached \$1.3 trillion in student debt, the average debt load for Hoosier students is around \$30,000, and so that is a very chilling impact at a time when our strategic plan and everything that we’re doing talks about more students accessing college. We need to make sure they can afford to do so,” Lubbers said.

Lubbers noted Indiana ranks first in the Midwest and fifth in the nation in providing need-based financial aid for college students through such programs as 21st Century Scholars and Frank O’Bannon Grants. “But as strong and as good as these programs are, they don’t cover the full cost of college. ... The savings

that families can have by saving just a little bit of money and starting to do that early in life will make a difference” with books, housing and other expenses the assistance programs may not cover.

She also said starting 529 savings early gets students in a mindset that they are college material and gets them more engaged in their education from an earlier age.

Mitchell, who said she was among the first in her family to graduate from college, shared a personal experience. “I opened CollegeChoice 529s myself for my children, and it was one of the reasons my daughter graduated debt-free from IU and my son’s on track to do the same from Wabash College this May. It really makes a tremendous difference.”

Likewise, as part of the 20-year celebration of CollegeChoice plans, the program this year will solicit personal stories through social media from people who have benefitted from 529s. Those selected will receive either a donation to a 529 plan or will be featured in promotional materials, Montigney said.

Mitchell said the program also plans to announce the latest in a string of investment fee reductions later this year.

Journal Gazette
\$5 million aims to ease shortage of physicians
Ashley Sloboda
January 22, 2017

There’s a math problem facing Indiana, and it has the potential to affect residents’ health care.

There’s a physician shortage, and the problem can’t be fixed just by having more medical school graduates – which Indiana has seen.

The Indiana University School of Medicine’s enrollment has increased by 30 percent since 2007, and Marian University opened a medical school in 2013 that graduates about 150 students each year, said James Buchanan, a Fort Wayne-area resident who spent the last year on Indiana’s Graduate Medical Education Board.

However, Buchanan said, the number of residency programs in Indiana hasn’t expanded at a similar rate. The lack of in-state residencies can lead future physicians to finish training – and eventually practice – elsewhere, he said.

Indiana’s Graduate Medical Education Board was created in the 2015 legislative session to expand medical education by funding new residency program opportunities.

The board first met in January 2016. The initial year involved substantial legwork to get where the board is now: ready to award more than \$5 million in grants set aside by the state legislature that should help existing residency programs expand, help determine the feasibility of new programs and help burgeoning programs begin, Buchanan said.

He served on the board as a representative from the Indiana State Medical Association.

Dr. Michael Mirro, chief academic research officer for Parkview Health, said the issue is “incredibly important” to northeast Indiana because hospitals need a workforce to thrive.

IPFW has 85 medical students, he said, and residency programs are the most compelling way to get trained physicians to stay in a community.

Lutheran Health Network CEO Brian Bauer agreed.

“A strong graduate medical education program is a key building block in our mission to provide the high level of health care and access this community needs,” he said in a statement. “This is largely driven by recruiting, training and retaining the next generation of physicians.”

Data from the Association of American Medical Colleges show how residencies factor into a state’s physician retention rates. In 2014, 47.2 percent of physicians were active in the state where they completed their most recent residency, it reported.

Retention rates were even higher for physicians who completed both their undergraduate medical education and residency in the same state – 66.8 percent. Indiana’s retention rate was 76.9 percent, placing it ninth nationwide, 2014 data show.

Funneling state dollars toward residency programs is important because they rely heavily on federal funding, which is limited, Buchanan said.

The AAMC has advocated for increased federal support to train at least 3,000 more doctors a year by lifting the cap on federally funded residency training positions.

A 2016 study released by the association estimates a national shortfall between 14,900 and 35,600 primary care physicians by 2025. The shortfall for non-primary care specialties is expected to be between 37,400 and 60,300 physicians.

“What we recognize is there’s a shortage of physicians in the state of Indiana, particularly when we talk about primary care and other select specialties,” Buchanan said.

Areas of need include family medicine, outpatient community-based internal medicine, outpatient community based pediatrics, OB-GYN, psychiatry, emergency medicine and general surgery, he said.

Medical schools are adding more potential doctors to the pipeline. The AAMC in 2006 recommended that first-year medical school enrollment increase by 30 percent – a goal that likely will be reached in the 2017-18 year.

But now half of medical schools are concerned about incoming students’ ability to find residency positions of their choice, compared to 35 percent in 2012, the association reported, citing a 2015 survey.

John Tan, a second-year family medicine resident with the Fort Wayne Medical Education Program, knows residencies are competitive. U.S. medical graduates compete for slots with graduates from overseas, he said.

Tan, who grew up in Indonesia but moved to Indiana at age 18, began residency interviews at the end of 2014. He credited attending the Indiana School of Medicine and wanting to stay in Indiana with increasing his chances of matching with a program.

Tan said he is enjoying Fort Wayne. His residency enables him to work in Lutheran, Parkview and St. Joseph hospitals, he said.

“We have an awesome opportunity here,” he said, adding there is an “incredible number” of beds among the hospitals.

The Fort Wayne Medical Education Program, which has only 30 residents at a time, has seen an increase in applicants and has increased the number of interviews each recruiting season, academic program manager Michelle Harris said.

Most applicants are from Indiana, she said, but the program also receives applications from throughout the country, including the West and East coasts.

The program wants to increase its residency positions to 36 within the next three years, Harris said. A funding application was submitted to the Graduate Medical Education Board for two positions that – if everything falls into place – could be added for the 2017-18 year.

The board has set aside about \$2.5 million for expanding residency programs, Buchanan said, explaining recipients will get \$45,000 per year per resident. The application deadline was Jan. 10.

Also this year, Buchanan said, the board will accept applications for \$75,000 feasibility grants to help hospitals and health centers study whether starting a residency program would be possible. Entities that know such a program is feasible may apply for a \$500,000 program development grant to help pay for such costs as hiring staff and buying equipment, he said.

The board has allocated \$1 million for the feasibility grants and \$2 million for the program development grants, Buchanan said.