

## **Resolution to Close Indiana's College Completion Achievement Gap**

March 14, 2013

**WHEREAS**, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (“Commission”) has set a goal that 60 percent of the state’s population complete education beyond high school by the year 2025;

**WHEREAS**, Indiana currently ranks 40<sup>th</sup> in the nation in education attainment with only a third of Hoosiers having completed education beyond high school;

**WHEREAS**, increasing education attainment in Indiana will provide Hoosiers with more opportunities, higher earnings and greater job security;

**WHEREAS**, increasing education attainment in Indiana will provide the state with a stronger economy, a stronger workforce and a stronger middle class;

**WHEREAS**, increasing education attainment in Indiana will require significantly increasing the state’s college completion and on-time graduation rates;

**WHEREAS**, less than a third of Hoosier college students currently earn a four-year degree on time and just over half graduate after six years;

**WHEREAS**, unacceptable disparities in college completion rates exist between underrepresented student populations and Indiana’s college population as a whole;

**WHEREAS**, Indiana’s current four-year college completion rates are 40 percent for the White student population, 35 percent for the Hispanic student population and 16 percent for the Black student population;

**WHEREAS**, Indiana’s current six-year college completion rates are 59 percent for the White student population, 53 percent for the Hispanic student population and 34 percent for the Black student population; and

**WHEREAS**, these persistent disparities in Indiana’s college completion and education attainment rates create enduring inequities in the economic well-being and opportunities afforded to Hoosiers.

### **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,**

- I. The Commission hereby sets a goal that Indiana’s college completion achievement gap between underrepresented student populations and the overall student population will be reduced in half by the year 2018 and eliminated by 2025;
- II. The Commission calls upon Indiana’s higher education institutions to publicly set targets for closing completion rate gaps for underrepresented populations; and
- III. The Commission will annually publish the college completion rates for student demographic groups and highlight successful strategies for closing the achievement gap as part of the Indiana College Completion Report.

*Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).*