

**State of Indiana
Commission for Higher Education**

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, November 09, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Commission for Higher Education met in regular session starting at 9:00 a.m. ET at Vincennes University Aviation Technology Center, 2175 S. Hoffman Rd. Indianapolis, Indiana 46241

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Members Present: Anne Bowen, Dennis Bland, Mike Alley, Al Hubbard, Nancy Jordan, Chris LaMothe, Dr. Chad Lochmiller, Pepper Mulherin, Tom Saunders.

Members Absent: Bill Hanna, Jud Fisher, Dan Peterson, and Gen. Erika Steuterman.

CHAIR'S REPORT

It is my honor to welcome you to the November Commission meeting. This gathering provides us with an invaluable opportunity to discuss and shape the future of higher education in our great state. Before we delve into today's set agenda, I'd like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Vincennes University for their gracious hospitality and hosting today's meeting.

Their support and commitment to higher education in Indiana are truly commendable, and we are grateful for their partnership. I am particularly excited about today's meeting as it promises to be an enlightening and productive session. We have a range of critical topics on our agenda and I'm eager to learn more about the various initiatives and proposals that will help us advance the quality of higher education here in Indiana. I would also like to express my gratitude to each one of you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to be here today. Your presence and dedication to the cause of higher education are what make our Commission a force for positive change. Thank you and once again, let's have a productive and insightful meeting.

I will now turn it over to Dr. Laura Treanor, Provost of Vincennes University, to address the group.

Dr. Laura Treanor, Provost of Vincennes University, addresses the group.

Thank you, Dr. Treanor. I will turn it over to Commissioner Lowery for his report.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lowery thanked all Commission members and welcomed Dr. Treanor.

Commissioner Lowery reported on the following topics:

The Hope Agenda Goals – Leading Indiana to be Top 10 in the nation by 2030 in the following areas:

1. Post-high school training and education going-rates for youth and adults, across all demographics
 - a. Indiana currently ranks **31st** in the college-going rate for youth (2020) and **21st** in first-time undergraduate enrollment of adults
2. Postsecondary attainment for veterans, individuals with disabilities, and the justice involved
 - a. Indiana currently ranks **47th** in total education attainment of veterans aged 25-62 (2021)
 - b. Indiana currently ranks **45th** in total education attainment of those with a disability aged 25-64 (2021)
 - c. Indiana currently ranks **43rd** in the percentage of adults in correctional facilities enrolled in school or college (2021)
3. Utilization of credit for prior learning
 - a. Indiana is currently **1 of 43** states to not have a comprehensive state-wide credit for prior learning policy (2020)
4. The rate at which Hoosiers successfully complete their chosen areas of study
 - a. Indiana is currently **13th** in total six-year completion rates among first-time students enrolling in 2- or 4-year public and private institutions (2022)
5. Retaining talent once someone has graduated
 - a. Indiana currently ranks **36th** in retention and migration of college graduates (2021)
6. Measurable distinction of social and economic mobility and prosperity
 - a. Indiana currently ranks **35th** on the Human Development Index (2021)
 - i. The values of three dimensions – education, health, and standard of living
7. As a recognized state for growing or starting a business, based on the strength of human capital
 - a. Indiana currently ranks **40th** in attainment among working-age adults with an associate degree or higher
 - b. **+ 3rd** in attainment among working-age adults with only a certificate or certification
 - c. **= 22nd** in total educational attainment beyond a high school diploma among working-age adults (2021)

1. ***Post-high school training and education going rates for youth and adults, across all demographics***

What is Indiana doing to advance this goal?

- **Frank O'Bannon Grant:** this year, the Frank O'Bannon maximum base award amount was increased by 35%.
- **21st Century Scholars Automatic Enrollment:** eligible students are now automatically enrolled in the program, doubling the number of Scholars in the 2027 cohort alone from 19,900 to over 40,000.
- **Indiana Pre-Admissions:** students in the class of 2024 from 327 participating high schools will be the first to be pre-admitted to up to 38 participating colleges in Indiana.
 - Sent to nearly 57,000 high school seniors in Indiana.
 - Students were pre-admitted to an average of 24 institutions, all students were admitted to at least 3
 - 28% of students were pre-admitted to all 38 participating institutions
- **FAFSA Completion:** this year the FAFSA is required to be completed by all Hoosier high school seniors with a goal of 60% completion for the 2024 graduating class.
- **Workforce Ready Grant:** provides Hoosiers with free training in high-growth, in-demand job fields by paying for high-value certificates in one of Indiana's rising industry sectors. CHE received a \$5M increase, while DWD received a \$3M increase.
- **Outcomes-Based Performance Funding:** revised formula continues the state's focus on college completion but also emphasizes the critical areas of enrollment and graduate retention.
 - This year, robust OBPF plans were submitted by institutions
- **Indiana College Core:** a block of 30 college credits students can earn while in high school that can be transferred to all Indiana public and some private institutions saving each student who completes the Indiana College Core, on average, \$22,000.
 - 2020 - **84** Indiana high schools offered the Indiana College Core
 - 2021 - **141** Indiana high schools offered the Indiana College Core
 - 2022 - **222** Indiana high schools offered the Indiana College Core
- **CTE Integration:** CTE connects industry, workforce development and education through the development and implementation of relevant career and technical education programs to prepare students for high-skill, in-demand career fields.
 - Under HEA 1002-2023 CHE is housed at CHE – expands on much of the great work happening at career centers and schools within our current CTE system and provides additional opportunities to students.

2. ***Postsecondary attainment for veterans, individuals with disabilities and the justice-involved***

What is Indiana doing to advance this goal?

- **Student Success and Completion Committee:**

- **Veterans Taskforce:** Dr. Stacy Townley highlighted the taskforce’s work at the Commission meeting
 - **Inclusive Postsecondary Education Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (ID) Taskforce:** taskforce will lead the Commission in developing policies and programs to support this initiative.
 - **Pell Reinstatement:** federal legislation restored Pell Grant eligibility to students enrolled in certain prison education programs. With these changes, the Indiana Department of Corrections and the Commission are partnering to guide the implementation of the Indiana Prison Education Program to increase postsecondary education and training for incarcerated individuals.
3. *Utilization of credit for prior learning to honor the work, training and education already achieved by adult learners*

What is Indiana doing to advance this goal?

- **CPL Library (Clearinghouse 2.0, name TBD):** part of a statewide effort led by CHE to increase awareness and utilization of credit for prior learning as a means to honor the work, training and education already achieved by adult learners and support their credential attainment; the vision for the CPL library/Clearinghouse 2.0 is, in part, to provide an interactive tool to showcase and explore CPL options and pathways, supporting students, higher education institutions and employers in identifying education and talent development opportunities aligned with desired skills and competencies.
 - **Prior Learning Assessments:** state financial aid dollars can be used to pay fees associated with prior learning assessments.
4. *The rate at which Hoosiers successfully **complete** their chosen areas of study*

What is Indiana doing to advance this goal?

- **Outcomes-Based Performance Funding:** revised formula continues the state’s focus on college completion but also emphasizes the critical areas of enrollment and graduate retention.
- **Frank O’Bannon Grant:** students who are on track for on-time graduation earn an increased award.
- **Credit Completion for Financial Aid:** 21st Century Scholars are required to complete 30 credit hours each academic year to maintain their scholarship, keeping them on track for on-time completion.
- **Strategic Investment:** CHE is broadening its reach and reallocating resources to support collaboration with partners to increase student success and completion.
- **College Success Grants:** Under HEA 1001-2023 to provide funding for 4-year higher education institutions to build and enhance new staffing capacity to support five priority student populations.

5. ***Retaining talent once someone has graduated from a postsecondary training or education program***

What is Indiana doing to advance this goal?

- **Outcomes-Based Performance Funding:** revised formula continues the state’s focus on college completion but also emphasizes the critical areas of enrollment and graduate retention.
- **Pentagon Partnership:** develop and expand critically important collaboration with thought leaders from five key sectors – business, government, education (K-12 and higher education), non-profits (community- and faith-based organizations) and philanthropy.
- **Additional Strategic Partnerships:** CHE works with the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Indiana Economic Development Corporation, and Indiana Destination Development Corporation to strengthen the education to workforce pipeline.
- **Uplifting Best Practices:** CHE highlights successes and best practices from Indiana institutions to share the strides being made in higher education.

6. ***Measurable distinction in economic and social mobility and prosperity outcomes***

What is Indiana doing to advance this goal?

- **Outcomes-Based Performance Funding:** revised formula continues the state’s focus on college completion but also emphasizes the critical areas of enrollment, graduate retention, and statewide economic outcomes by positioning Indiana as a hub of innovative research.
- **Additional Supporting CHE Initiatives:** 21st Century Scholars, Frank O’Bannon Grant, Indiana College Core, Pre-Admissions, FAFSA completion, Workforce Ready Grant, Adult Strategy, CTE integration and alignment and Partnership Pentagon.

7. ***As the recognized state for growing or starting a business, based upon the strength of human capital***

What is Indiana doing to advance this goal?

- All programming and policy efforts support this goal.
- This is the result of postsecondary attainment.

Areas Indiana Ranks Top 10

1. **1st** in the Midwest in need-based financial aid
2. **3rd** in the nation in certificate and certification attainment (below an associates degree)
3. **5th** in the nation in need-based financial aid
4. **6th** in the nation in tuition holding

5. **9th** best in attracting students to our higher education institutions

2023 Data Dashboards - Indiana college-going, enrollment and completion data

This year, the Commission decided to replace the annual reports with comprehensive data dashboards on college-going, enrollment, and completion rates across Indiana

Data in Context

- **Lagging: College-going data is 2 years behind** in reporting due to factoring in the full academic year.
- **Leading: Enrollment** data reflects the **current school year** and serves as a leading indicator for college-going and completion rates.
- **Forecasting:** The Commission’s **strategic initiatives** help to forecast trends and will influence future rates.
- 21st Century Scholars, Frank O’Bannon, Indiana College Core, Indiana: Pre-Admissions, OBPF, FAFSA Requirement

1. **Indiana’s College-Going Rate**

- Indiana’s college-going rate has declined yearly since 2015, but 2021 was the first year the rate held steady at **53%**
- 21st Century Scholars continue to enroll in college at higher rates than their non-Scholar, low-income peers (**81%** compared to 30%).
- Indiana College Core completers college-going rate = **about 90%**
- Roughly **43%** of Hispanic or Latino high school graduates enrolled in college in 2021
- **45%** of Black students compared to 55% of White students.
- Men continue to go to college at a lower rate than women with **46%** of men enrolling in college compared to 60% of women.

2. **Indiana’s College Enrollment** – Indiana sees largest year-over-year college enrollment increase since 2010

- Enrollment at statewide public institutions increased by nearly **5,000 students** from fall 2022.
- Resident enrollment increased by nearly **2%**.
- At the undergraduate level, enrollment improved by nearly **3%** from fall 2022 while graduate enrollment declined by **less than 1%**.
- Both four- and two-year institutions experienced a year-over-year increase in enrollment.
- Indiana’s Strategic Initiatives:
 - Frank O’Bannon Grant increase
 - 21st Century Scholars automatic enrollment
 - Revised Outcomes-Based Performance Funding formula
 - Indiana College Core expansion
 - *Indiana Pre-Admissions: Your Path to College*

3. **Indiana’s College Completion Rate** – More students are completing a degree or credential

- Over **two thirds** of all students graduated in an extended timeframe.
- **On-time = 47%**; 2 percentage-point increase in 1 year, nearly 9 percentage-point increase in 5 years, nearly 20 percentage point 10-year increase (19.5 percentage points)
- **Extended-time = 67%**; 1 percentage-point increase in 1 year, 8 percentage-point increase in 5 years
- Persistence rate = **79%**
- **Nearly 3 out of 4 students** (73%) at any four-year campus graduated within six years.
- Over **80%** of students at a four-year main campus graduated within six years.
- Adult learners, low-income and students from underrepresented populations are **less likely** to graduate on time than their peers across all campus types.

Strategic Management Process – Leveraging Lagging, Leading, and Forecasting Data and Insights

Commissioner Lowery introduced the framework the agency will use as a base for the 2024 CHE Strategic Plan. This system, brought from past experience with positive results, will promote alignment among all CHE staff in supporting the HOPE Agenda goals and creating a clear and transparent vision and process for the entire agency. All CHE staff will be working over the next few months to establish goals in relation to the first five HOPE Agenda items. More details over the progress of this implementation will be presenting in the January meeting.

Statewide Tour

Beginning in September 2023, the Commission has been traveling across the state visiting:

- High Schools
- Higher Education Institutions
- Legislators
- Business Partners
- Community Organizations
- Career Centers
- Local Media

These monthly stops will continue throughout 2024, some aligning with the Commission meetings. Suggestions for locations or potential partnerships are welcome.

Indiana Institutional Highlights

1. **Indiana University:** Kelly School of Business Co-op

- IU Indianapolis has launched its Kelly Indianapolis Business Plus Co-op designed as an intensive undergraduate course where students alternate between semesters of academic coursework and full-time paid work over four years.
- 2. **Vincennes University:** Named one on top of 50 community colleges in U.S.
 - The Aspen Institute has included Vincennes University on their list of top community colleges in the nation.
 - By being named a top community college, Vincennes University is eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

CHE Staff Updates

1. Recent Hires
 - Brooke Kile, Associate Commissioner for Business Intelligence
 - Previously at Marian University as Director of Institutional Research where she led the institution in leveraging shared data, systems and practices to advance strategic initiatives.
2. Updates
 - Tony Harl, Associate Commissioner for K-12 Strategy
 - Previously State Director of CTE

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE MEETING MINUTES

- R-23-6.1 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Minutes of the September 2023 regular meeting. (Motion – LaMothe, second – Hubbard, unanimously approved)

III. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

A. Parchment e-Transcript Guest Presentation and Progress Report

Matt Pittinsky, CEO of Parchment, presented this item.

B. Rockefeller Grant Update

Dr. Ken Sauer presented this item.

C. Academic Degree Programs for Expedited Action*

R-23-6.2 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Master of Science in Actuarial Science to be offered by Indiana University East, Indiana University Northwest, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IU), and Indiana University South Bend, with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Jordan, second – Mulherin, unanimously approved)

IV. BUDGET ITEMS

A. Capital Projects for Full Discussion*

Anne Hazelett presented this item. Seth Hinshaw provided the staff recommendations.

R-23-6.3 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Purdue University West Lafayette Fuse Lease Agreement (Motion – Hubbard, second – Alley, unanimously approved)

B. Capital Projects for Expedited Action*

R-23-6.4 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves all three Capital Projects for Expedited Action. (Motion – Hubbard, second – Alley, unanimously approved)

V. CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

A. CTE: Blurring the Lines Between Education and Workforce Presentation

Tony Harl and Sam Rourke presented this item.

VI. ADULT STRATEGY

A. CPL Collaboration Project

Dr. Stacy Townsley presented this item.

B. Resolution on Statewide CPL Policy Guidance*

R-23-6.5 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the resolution on Statewide CPL Policy Guidance. (Motion – Hubbard, second – Mulherin, unanimously approved)

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Academic Degree Programs Awaiting Action
- B. Academic Degree Program Actions Taken by Staff
- C. Media Coverage

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 P.M. ET

Jud Fisher, Chair

Anne Bowen, Secretary