



INDIANA COMMISSION  
for  
HIGHER EDUCATION



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## **State helps 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars transition from college to careers**

MUNCIE, IND. – College students enrolled in Indiana’s 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars program came together from across the state on the campus of Ball State University this month for the inaugural Next Steps College Conference. Sponsored by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Learn More Indiana, Ball State University and Ivy Tech Community College (Muncie) the event is part of an ongoing effort to help 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars complete college and prepare for success in their chosen career path.

“One of the greatest—and until now largely untapped—resources for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Program are the Scholars themselves,” said Chris Enstrom, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Outreach Director. “The Next Steps conference was a great opportunity for current Scholars and Scholar alumni to connect, network and learn from one another. We look forward to expanding this effort to more Hoosier students and campuses next year.”

Participants at the Next Steps conference included current 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars, members of the state’s campus-based ScholarCorps program, college professionals and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars alumni. Discussion topics included:

- Life after graduation
- Networking
- Financial literacy
- Job market
- Graduate School

The conference featured a diverse panel of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar alumni who shared their first-hand knowledge and personal experiences in the achieving academic success and developing their skills as career professionals. Featured alumni included Executive Director of Motivate Our Minds, Inc., an IUPUI Academic Advising Report Specialist, a Financial Advisor at Oneial & Associates, LLC and a University of Chicago Ph.D. candidate.

“The Next Steps Conference was a great opportunity for current 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Alumni to share the obstacles and edification experienced throughout our personal, professional and academic lives,” said Elijah Barry, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar alumnus.

### **About the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Program**

Indiana’s 21st Century Scholars is a needs- and performance-based promise program that provides students the opportunity to earn up to a four-year scholarship at an Indiana college or university. Hoosier students who meet income criteria can enroll during their 7th- or 8th-grade year of middle school. Students commit to maintaining academic success, remaining drug and alcohol free, and completing college-preparation activities that keep them on track for graduation. Learn more at [Scholars.IN.gov](http://Scholars.IN.gov) or [LearnMoreIndiana.org](http://LearnMoreIndiana.org).

