

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday, January 16, 2009

DISCUSSION ITEM C: **Indiana Chamber of Commerce Higher Education Legislative Agenda for 2009**

Staff Recommendation For discussion only.

Background Mr. Derek Redelman, Vice President for Education & Workforce Development, Indiana Chamber of Commerce will review the higher education legislative agenda for 2009.

For over 15 years, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce has hosted the Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF), a committee of business and postsecondary leaders that serves as both the chamber's policy committee on higher education issues and an opportunity for collaboration between these two constituencies. Historically, the BHEF helped create and advocate for the high school Core 40 curriculum in response to common concerns between business and higher education about the quality of Indiana's high school graduates. The committee has also served as a forum for discussing other common concerns involving education and economic development.

Over the past year, the BHEF has reviewed and completely rewritten the Chamber's higher education policy positions. These new positions reflect much of the work that has been done by the Commission over the past two years and also reflects the Chamber's intent to engage in higher education issues much more actively. The Indiana Chamber is also serving as the lead agent, in partnership with the Commission, as a recipient of Lumina Foundation's "Making Opportunity Affordable" grant program. Through this partnership, the Chamber and the Commission, along with several other partners, hope to develop a long-term plan for helping to implement and advance the common productivity components of our higher education policies.

Supporting Document *2009 Legislative Preview – EDUCATION/Higher Education*



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Legislative Business Issues



This publication summarizes the public policy positions of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce for the year 2009 General Assembly and congressional sessions and beyond.

It reflects extensive research, work and refinement by the Indiana Chamber's volunteer policy committees (comprised of employees of member companies) and Chamber staff.

Legislative Business Issues 2009 has been reviewed and approved by the Chamber's board of directors and is distributed to its membership, legislators, media and other interested parties.

The Chamber's lobbying team uses these policy positions to initiate and evaluate legislation at the Statehouse and in Congress. If you have any questions, or wish to express your views, please contact the appropriate Chamber lobbyist.

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EDUCATION/Higher Education

Access Through Technology

The Indiana Chamber Position:

The Indiana Chamber supports adjustments to current funding mechanisms, financial aid policies and other incentives for colleges and universities that will encourage broader adoption of on-line, distance learning and other technology-based learning opportunities.

Accountability and Continuous Improvement

The Indiana Chamber Position:

The Indiana Chamber supports increased accountability and greater focus on continuous improvement through measures including, but not limited to:

- Establishment of a statewide performance reporting system that includes: timely annual updates; broad public access; comparisons to state, national and international trends; and comparisons between public and independent sectors;
- Participation in national accountability and performance reporting initiatives;
- Establishment of short- and long-term improvement goals that are benchmarked to peer institutions and are integrated with the state's biennial budget process;
- Increased emphasis on student learning outcomes through the use of student-performance assessments and public reporting of results;
- Establishment of specific accountability measures to address the effectiveness of remedial programs; and
- Continuous public attention to productivity, cost containment and efficiency metrics.

Business/Higher Education Collaboration

The Indiana Chamber Position:

The Indiana Chamber supports the further development of initiatives and incentives to encourage business and higher education to collaborate on issues of mutual business interest for the benefit of the Indiana economy.

Business/Higher Education: Role in Economic Development Planning

The Indiana Chamber Position:

The Indiana Chamber supports the importance of business and higher education playing a prominent role in Indiana's development of the vision and plan for economic development. The presence of business and higher education on the newly established Indiana Economic Development Corporation is both appropriate and important. Business and higher education should continue to be a vital component to any economic development strategies of the future.

Community College System

The Indiana Chamber Position:

The Indiana Chamber supports continued growth of a strong community college system for Indiana that will expand postsecondary educational opportunities throughout the state including, but not limited to:

- Development of effective and accelerated transition programs for high school dropouts and for high school graduates who require remediation;
- Establishment of Ivy Tech Community College as a primary point of contact (or the primary contact) for students seeking adult basic education;
- Restructuring of financial aid eligibility and administrative procedures to better meet the needs of adult and part-time students;
- Expansion of degree and certificate programs that are designed to meet the specific needs of working adults and Hoosier employers;
- Expanded use of technology for delivery of coursework;
- Development of policies and practices to maximize the courses that will apply to transfer students' degree objectives and ensure that transfer opportunities are transparent and widely available;
- Development of cooperative agreements with the Indiana Department of Workforce Development to address high-demand and future workforce needs, coordinate funding opportunities for onsite training at a business or industry, and increase the number of third party certificates earned and independently certified by business and industry; and
- Co-location and/or shared use of facilities, whenever possible, with four-year degree-granting institutions.

Creative Funding Mechanisms for Increasing Access

The Indiana Chamber Position:

The Indiana Chamber supports a lease arrangement for the Indiana Lottery, along with other non-tax, creative funding mechanisms, to:

- Expand opportunities for incumbent worker training;
- Expand needs-based financial aid programs; and
- Extend state financial aid to part-time students.

Such programs should include incentives to focus student participants on high-needs certificate and degree programs and to help assure steady progress towards completion.

Expectations for Improved College Preparation

The Indiana Chamber Position:

The Indiana Chamber supports:

- The substantial elimination of remedial courses at Indiana's public four-year colleges and universities;
- The establishment of Core 40 as a minimum admissions criterion for traditional-aged students at four-year public colleges and universities; and
- The creation of an accessible public reporting system that will inform parents, educators and the broader community about the success and preparation levels for students from each Indiana high school that enroll in Indiana institutions of higher education.

Financial and Other Incentives for Performance Outcomes

The Indiana Chamber Position:

The Indiana Chamber supports a shift in Indiana's higher education funding formula from an enrollment-based system to a performance-based system. The components of such a system could include such performance measures as: credit hour completion, degree and certificate completion, on-time and total graduation rates, and credit transfers from community college to four-year institutions. The Indiana Chamber supports additional weighting of performance incentives to encourage enrollment of low-income students.

Higher Education Financial Flexibility

The Indiana Chamber Position:

The Indiana Chamber supports enactment of state legislation that would grant Indiana's public higher education institutions greater financial flexibility, based on markets and not government policy, to allow them to operate more efficiently and effectively. The Chamber supports legislation to allow public higher education institutions to issue facilities bonds and pay off the bonds with earned research dollars and/or privately raised dollars without the approval of the Indiana General Assembly, but after conferring with the State Budget Committee and the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. The Chamber further supports encouraging public universities to set tuition and not have tuition dictated by government policy.

Higher Education Investment in Business Development and Job Growth

The Indiana Chamber Position:

The Indiana Chamber supports the continued focus by higher education in investing strategically in initiatives that will continue the growth of Indiana business in collaboration with our higher education institutions. The Chamber also supports a balanced state budget that ensures a strong financial position and provides ongoing, enhanced investments in human capital.