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Commission for Higher Education Hires Chief Academic Officer

Dr. Matt Butler begins his role November 11

(INDIANAPOLIS) – The Indiana Commission for Higher Education (Commission) announces the hiring of **Dr. Matthew Butler** as Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer.

Most recently serving as the Governor’s senior policy advisor for education and workforce, Butler brings nearly a decade of education policy and implementation experience to the Commission. In his previous role, he worked with multiple government agencies to facilitate their operations, strategy, and legislative affairs. Butler worked directly with agency leads to support the state’s education and workforce agenda, including partnering with the Commission. This included enacting policies to expand “degree-in-3” bachelor’s programs, establishing a statewide associate degree reverse transfer system, and adding early childhood education to Indiana’s Next Level Jobs training grant programs. Prior to his current role, Butler worked as the Vice President of External Engagement at INvestEd and as both a fiscal analyst and a policy advisor with the Indiana House Republicans.

Butler graduated with his bachelor’s degree from Purdue University. He went on to earn his master’s from William & Mary and his PhD from the University of Cambridge.

“Dr. Butler brings an incredible amount of legislative and policy experience to the Commission, and we are thrilled to have him,” said Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery. “I have seen how much of a changemaker he is through our collaboration with the Governor’s office and the General Assembly. As the Commission’s Chief Academic Officer, he will take on the important task of approving new and reviewing existing degrees, increasing transfer options, and ensuring academic offerings have workforce relevance. With his extensive background, I am excited to see him take on these challenges. He is an outstanding, thoughtful leader and supporter of the opportunities made possible through higher education.”



Dr. Matt Butler

Butler will lead the Commission’s postsecondary academic efforts including revamping the process for approving and reviewing the more than 3,000 existing degree offerings among Indiana’s public institutions. Butler will also serve as the liaison between the Commission and academic institutions from around the state, and as the executive director of the Board for Proprietary Education.

Butler will begin his role on November 11.

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About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Created in 1971, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education plans, coordinates, and defines Indiana’s postsecondary education system to align higher learning with the needs of students and the state. The Commission also administers Indiana’s financial aid programs, including the [21st Century Scholars](#) early college promise scholarship, which celebrated 30 years in 2020.