



INDIANA COMMISSION *for*  
HIGHER EDUCATION



# INDIANA PARTNERSHIP PENTAGON

MEETING 1 | PROGRAM BOOK

# OBJECTIVE

Participation in the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (the Commission) Partnership Pentagon will allow the Commission to develop and expand critically important collaboration with thought leaders from five key sectors of society, including business, government, education (K-12 and higher education), non-profits (community- and faith-based organizations) and philanthropy. A group of leaders throughout Indiana, the Partners, will be working in concert with the Commission over 18 months to better understand and propose solutions around Indiana's challenges and opportunities related to higher education. The intent of this work will be to maximize the collective impact of the five sectors amongst one another as multiplicative, rather than simply additive. The Hunt Institute will work alongside the Partners and Commission staff to provide support in the form of facilitation, research and design thinking to fully develop ideas for policies and programs and deepen partnerships.

The Commission is currently setting long-term goals to address higher education trends, such as reversing the declining college-going rates for youth and adults, continuing to improve student persistence and completion, and increasing graduate retention in Indiana. These strategic areas are part and parcel of improving, and reevaluating overall college attainment rates for Indiana. The Ultimate goal is to create a culture where Hoosiers, individually and together:

- Place great value on education, specifically opportunities beyond a high school diploma.
- Recognize and embrace the fact that this is a fundamental for individuals to be locally and globally competitive.
- Reverse declines in and robustly improve in measurable areas such as college going-rates, completions, and graduate retention.
- Individually commit to continuously increasing their own degree of preparedness in the workforce and more broadly civil society.
- Challenge the belief – some may even say culture – that casts doubt on the value of education and training beyond high school as a pathway to prosperity and lift up the virtues of education, predicated on facts that offer clear evidence of return on investment and economic and social mobility.

Since the state began tracking postsecondary attainment in 2009, over two-thirds of Indiana's growth has come from sub-associate degree credentials (technical certificates, certificates and industry certifications) while growth stagnated for associate degrees and higher. When examining attainment with bachelor's degrees and above, Indiana lost ground in national rankings moving from 39th to 43rd.

The guiding principles of the Partnership Pentagon will be to increase opportunities to access economic and social mobility and prosperity for all Hoosiers. For employers, these principles yield a robust and future-oriented talent pipeline and more stable and thriving communities throughout Indiana. While the Commission team has begun to pursue a historic agenda during the current legislative session at the Statehouse to reverse noted trends and catalyze opportunities, Commissioner Lowery believes that deep and long-term improvements will require collaborative and concerted work by the five key sectors of society for truly transformational change. Thus, the creation of the Partnership Pentagon.


By the end of the 18-month period, which will include six meetings of the Partners, the expectation is to have a comprehensive set of policy and budget recommendations that can be taken to the full Commission, the Governor and the Indiana General Assembly for action in the 2025 biennial budget session.

## TUESDAY. APRIL 4, 2023

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

### WELCOME REMARKS AND MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Lowery will give brief opening remarks to articulate the purpose of this working group and its importance to the future of higher education policy in Indiana. Partners will then have the opportunity to introduce themselves.


 **Chris Lowery**, Commissioner, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

 @ChrisLoweryIN // @HigherEdIN@Indianatrio

HISTORY  
REFERENCE 211

9:30 AM - 9:45 AM

### THE STATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIANA

 **Chris Lowery**, Commissioner, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

 @ChrisLoweryIN // @HigherEdIN


9:45 AM - 9:55 AM

### BREAK

9:55 AM - 10:15 AM

### THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT FOR PURSUING HIGHER EDUCATION

Indiana prioritized postsecondary attainment as a strategy for cultivating a robust economy by setting a postsecondary attainment goal of 60 percent of all working age adults by 2025. Research shows that the knowledge and skills of workers available in a labor force affect business and economic growth. Additionally, those with higher education and workforce training see higher wages and lifetime earnings. Increasing access to postsecondary education and career training in ways that reach all Hoosiers are essential to creating a more prosperous Indiana economy.

 **Dr. Anthony P. Carnevale**, Director and Research Professor, Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce

 @GeorgetownCEW

RESOURCE  
EXPERTS



@HUNT\_INSTITUTE  
@JSIDDIQ17

**10:15 AM – 10:45 AM**

**TODAY'S POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS**

Approximately only 40 percent of students who enroll in postsecondary education across the United States and approximately 60 percent of Indiana's postsecondary students, are ages 18-24 and directly enroll after high school graduation. Instead, most postsecondary students are parents, employees, and students who have been previously enrolled but paused their education or transferred schools. These changing enrollment demographics highlight the changing and wide-ranging supports that students need. Wraparound student services including tutoring, counseling, child care, transportation, and other non-instructional services help students persist to postsecondary attainment. Discussions in this session will center around how the population of postsecondary students has changed, what the various pathways to postsecondary degrees or credentials are, and how Indiana can better support all students.

**MODERATOR**

 **Dr. Madeline Smith**, Director of Higher Education, The Hunt Institute

 @MadelineJSmith // @Hunt\_Institute

**RESOURCE EXPERTS**

 **Marlene Dotson**, President & CEO, Indiana Latino Institute

 @IndianaLatino

 **Maceo Rainey**, President, Indiana TRIO

 @Indianatrio

**10:45 AM – 11:15 AM**

**BREAKOUT SESSION**

Partners will break into small groups to discuss the needs of Indiana's college students and how to best provide them with the resources that they need to access and complete a postsecondary degree or credential. At the end of the breakout session, each group should be prepared to identify two to three policy priorities and actionable items.

**11:15 AM – 11:45 AM**

**REFLECTION AND GROUP DISCUSSION**

One member of each group will report their discussion, including two to three policy priorities. The group conversation will review the common features of policy priorities and action items identified in the small groups and will give Partners an opportunity to provide additional feedback and context on their recommendations.

**11:45 AM – 12:15 PM**

**LUNCH**



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12:15 PM - 12:45 PM

**CREDENTIAL PATHWAYS: PROVIDING BUILDING BLOCKS TO A MORE EDUCATED INDIANA**

The second topic will dive deeper into credentialing pathways and their ability to provide stackable credentials and training that supports Indiana's economy. Resource experts will provide background knowledge on the purpose of credential pathways and stackable credentials before exploring the current programs available in Indiana and best practices from other states


MODERATOR


 **Paola Santana**, Strategy Officer, Lumina Foundation

 @PASantana12 // @LuminaFound


RESOURCE EXPERTS

 **Aaron Baute**, Chancellor, Ivy Tech Community College Lafayette

 @ChancellorBaute // @laf\_ivytech

 **Dr. Stacy Townsley**, Associate Commissioner for Adult Strategy, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

 @HigherEdIN

 **Melanie Zaber**, Codirector, Middle-Class Pathways Center; Economist, RAND Corporation

 @MelanieZaber // @RANDCorporation

12:45 PM - 1:15 PM

**BREAKOUT SESSION**

Partners will break into small groups to discuss current credentialing pathways and how the state can improve opportunities for students. At the end of the breakout session, each group should be prepared to identify two to three policy priorities and actionable items.

1:15 PM - 1:45 PM

**REFLECTION AND GROUP DISCUSSION**

One member of each group will report their discussion, including two to three policy priorities. The group conversation will review the common features of policy priorities and action items identified in the small groups and will give Partners an opportunity to provide additional feedback and context on their recommendations.

1:45 PM - 2:00 PM

**CLOSING REMARKS**

 **Dr. Madeline Smith**, Director of Higher Education, The Hunt Institute

 @MadelineJSmith // @Hunt\_Institute

 **Chris Lowery**, Commissioner, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

 @ChrisLoweryIN // @HigherEdIN



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## ABOUT THE PARTNERS

### THE HUNT INSTITUTE | <https://hunt-institute.org/about/>

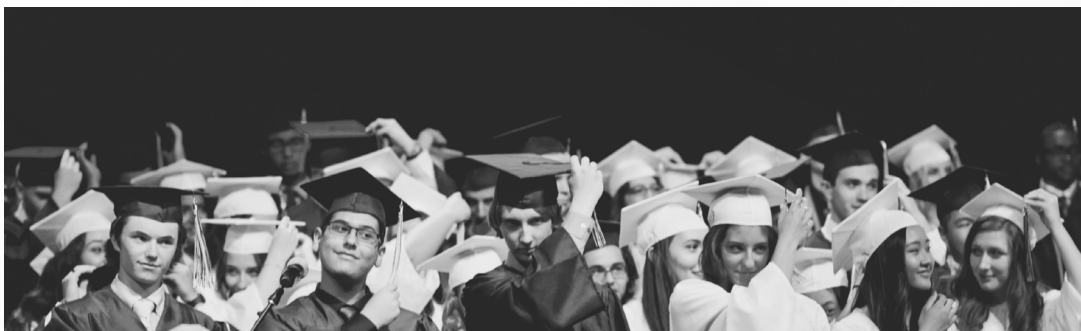
Established in 2001, The Hunt Institute honors the legacy of James B. Hunt, Jr., the former governor of North Carolina who distinguished himself as an ardent champion of education. The Hunt Institute brings together people and resources to inspire and inform elected officials and policymakers about key issues in education, resulting in visionary leaders who are prepared to take strategic action for greater educational outcomes and student success. Our mission is to provide unbiased research, technical expertise, and learning opportunities that equip and empower educators and policymakers to drive equitable reforms and become audacious champions for education.

### INDIANA COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION | <https://www.in.gov/che/>

Created in 1971 by an act of the General Assembly and signed into law by then Governor Edgar Whitcomb, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education is now in its fifth decade of service to the State of Indiana. The Commission is a fourteen-member public body created to:

- Define the educational missions of public colleges and universities;
- Plan and to coordinate Indiana's state-supported system of post-high school education, taking into account the plans and interests of independent colleges and universities;
- Review both operating budget and capital budget appropriation requests from public institutions; Approve or disapprove for public institutions the establishment of any new branches, campuses, extension centers, colleges or schools;
- Approve or disapprove for public institutions the offering of any additional associate, baccalaureate or graduate degree or certificate program of two semesters or more in duration;
- Review all programs of public institutions and make recommendations to the governing board of the institution, the Governor, and the General Assembly concerning the funding and the disposition of these programs; and,
- Distribute student financial aid from state aid programs.

The Commission is not a governing board, but a coordinating agency that works closely with Indiana's public and independent colleges. In addition, The Commission has strong working relationships with many other State agencies, including: Department of Education, the Department of Workforce Development and the Independent Colleges of Indiana.





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In 2016, The Hunt Institute became an independent, nonprofit entity and joined forces with Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy to pursue research, educational partnerships, and events related to improving education policy.

*Learn more at [www.hunt-institute.org](http://www.hunt-institute.org).*



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