

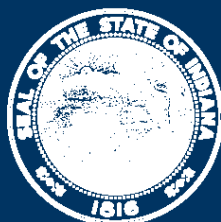


H. KENT WELDON CONFERENCE

Against the Odds:
**Powerful Practices to Drive
Educational Opportunity**

Date: 4/3/23

Location: Indianapolis Marriott North
(3645 River Crossing Parkway Indianapolis, IN 46240)



INDIANA COMMISSION *for*
HIGHER EDUCATION

H. KENT WELDON CONFERENCE for HIGHER EDUCATION

Against the Odds: Powerful Practices to Drive Educational Opportunity

Monday, April 3, 2023

Indianapolis Marriott North

CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:00 A.M. | Registration, Networking, and Breakfast

9:00 A.M. | Welcome

Chris Lowery, Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education

Jud Fisher, Chairman, Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education

9:15 A.M. | Keynote Speaker

Morgan Torres, Director of the Veterans Success Center, Purdue University

10:15 A.M. | Break

10:30 A.M. | Breakout Session 1 <choose one>

11:30 A.M. | Breakout Session 2 <choose one>

12:30 P.M. | Lunch & Gerald Bepko Faculty Community Engagement Award Announcement

Chris Lowery, Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education

Dr. Edward Berger, Purdue University

1:30 P.M. | Closing Remarks

Chris Lowery, Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education

BREAKOUT SESSION 1 TOPICS

Removing Barriers for Indiana's 21st Century Scholars

(Panel Discussion)

Theme Feature Focus: Countywide Collaboration to Support 21st Century Scholars

Facilitated by: Zach Callum, Outreach Coordinator - Southwest Region, K-12 Strategy, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Panelists:

Roberto Leal, 21st Century Scholar Recruiter at South Bend School Corporation

Malissa Ayala, Senior Program Officer—Education at Community Foundation of St. Joseph County

Chad Addie, Executive Director of GEAR UP South Bend

Utilizing the Indiana Graduates Prepared to Succeed (GPS) Dashboard

(Panel Discussion)

Theme Feature Focus: Equitable and Accelerated Pathways for All

Facilitated by: Michelle Ashcraft, Associate Commissioner for K-12 Strategy, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Panelists:

Jason Callahan, Assistant Secretary of Student Pathways and Opportunities at the Indiana Department of Education

Katie Lash, Executive Director & Instructional Program Coordinator of East Central Educational Service Center

Aaron Black, Superintendent of Schools at Randolph Eastern School Corporation

Increasing Indiana's Going-Rate

(Panel Discussion)

Theme Feature Focus: Catholic Schools and College-Going Rates for 21st Century Scholars, Black Students and Hispanic/Latino Students

Facilitated by: Sean Tierney, Associate Commissioner for Business Intelligence & Chief Economist, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Panelists:

Dr. Brian Disney, Superintendent of Catholic Schools at Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Dr. Joseph Brettnacher, Superintendent of Schools at Diocese of Fort Wayne—South Bend

Recruiting and Retaining Indiana's Teachers

(Panel Discussion)

Theme Feature Focus: Indiana's Investments in Teacher Credentialing

Facilitated by: Josh Garrison, Associate Commissioner for Public Policy, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Panelists:

Greg Harrell, Director of Legislation and Program Implementation at the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Trish Wlodarczyk, Director of Strategic Initiatives at CELL of the University of Indianapolis

Mike Beam, Assistant Vice President for School Partnerships and Senior Assistant Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education at Indiana University

BREAKOUT SESSION 2 TOPICS

Expanding Access to the Indiana College Core

(Panel Discussion)

Theme Feature Focus: Promoting College-Going and Completions through the Indiana College Core

Facilitated by: Dr. Ken Sauer, Senior Associate Commissioner & Chief Academic Officer, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Panelists:

Michelle Ashcraft, Associate Commissioner for K-12 Strategy at the Indiana Commission for Higher Education
Jillian Scholten, Director of Academic Affairs & Talent Credentialing at the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Indiana Pre-Admissions: Your Path to College

(Panel Discussion)

Theme Feature Focus: Your Next Steps Idaho Influences Other State Implementations

Facilitated by: Greg Harrell, Director of Legislation and Program Implementation, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Panelists:

Josh Garrison, Associate Commissioner for Public Policy at the Indiana Commission for Higher Education
Sara Scudder, College and Career Access Officer at Idaho State Board of Education

Increasing Indiana's College Completion Rate

(Panel Discussion)

Theme Feature Focus: Completion Gains for 21st Century Scholars, Black Students and Hispanic/Latino Students

Facilitated by: Sean Tierney, Associate Commissioner for Business Intelligence and Chief Economist, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Panelists:

Gaye Walthall, Director of the Student Success Center at Vincennes University
Dr. Karen Dace, Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis
Julie Wiejak, Executive Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Purdue University Northwest

Implementing the Veterans Education Pathway Taskforce

(Panel Discussion)

Theme Feature Focus: Identifying Short- and Longer-Term Opportunities to Attract and Better Support Veterans and Military-Affiliated individuals in Postsecondary Education

Facilitated by: José Medina, Director of Business and Community Engagement, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Panelists:

Dr. Stacy Townsley, Associate Commissioner for Adult Strategy at the Indiana Commission for Higher Education
Amy Stone, Project Director of Labor VALLO Grant at Ivy Tech Community College
Stephen Goodan, Director of Education Services at the Indiana National Guard

Conference Speakers

Chris Lowery

Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education

Chris Lowery was appointed in 2022 to serve as Commissioner for Indiana's Commission for Higher Education, the coordinating agency charged with ensuring the state's postsecondary education system is aligned to meet the needs of students and the state. Prior to joining the Commission, Lowery was senior vice president, workforce, careers and adult strategy at Ivy Tech Community College where he provided overall leadership of Ivy Tech workforce and career initiatives and organization. Before working in higher education, Lowery led public policy and engagement for Hillenbrand, Inc. and served as an aide to former Indiana Governor Robert D. Orr and then-Senator Dan Quayle.



As Commissioner, Lowery is committed to increasing college completion by improving the college-going rate, engaging adult learners and ensuring students of all ages understand the value proposition of higher education. He collaborates with policymakers, higher education leaders and community partners to maintain college affordability and guarantee quality higher education is delivered and tied to career relevance as the Commission continues its efforts to realize the state's goal of at least 60 percent of Hoosiers with quality education and training beyond high school.

Currently, Lowery is on the Board of Trustees of the Sagamore Institute think tank where he previously served as chair. Additionally, he serves on the Boards of Directors of AgriNovus Indiana and Shepherd Community. He's also a member of the Advisory Council for the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning.

Lowery was Chair of the Career Coaching and Navigation Action Team for Governor Eric Holcomb's Workforce Cabinet. He has served on various other boards of directors including Gleaners Food Bank, the Indiana Construction Roundtable Foundation, the Indiana Council for Continuing Education, the State Workforce Innovation Council, the Distinguished Alumni Council of the Indiana University O'Neill School of Public Affairs and the Batesville Community School Corporation. He is a regular speaker in Indiana and nationally on topics ranging from the future of higher education, the economy and workforce preparedness to innovation, leadership and social impact investing.

Lowery holds the degree of Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs from Indiana University and a Master of Science in Management from Indiana Wesleyan University.

Jud Fisher

Chair, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

President and CEO, Ball Brothers Foundation

A Michigan native, Michael Justin (Jud) Fisher is a graduate of DePauw University and the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. He joined Ball Brothers Foundation in 2003 after working in administration for Old National Bancorp.

In addition to his duties as president and chief operating officer of BBF, he serves on the boards of several regional and statewide organizations including the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, the Edmund F. and Virginia B. Ball Foundation, Delaware Advancement Corporation and The Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County, Inc.

He is the grandson of John W. Fisher and Janice Ball Fisher (1916-2010), the youngest daughter of BBF founder E. B. Ball. Fisher grew up in Leland, Michigan, and graduated from Leland High School. He worked in a horse stable, on charter fishing boats, in the cherry orchards, as a sailing instructor and at several other jobs while growing up in Leelanau County. He loves to hunt, fish, sail, hike and generally be outdoors.



Morgan Torres

Director of the Veterans Success Center, Purdue University

Morgan serves as the Director of the Veterans Success Center, a student support center for military-connected students at Purdue University. She and her staff oversee the processing, benefits and support of over 1700 military-connected students. She also currently serves as a staff sergeant, E6, within the United States Army Reserve and has been awarded three Army Achievement Medals for her efforts within her unit. Lastly, Morgan has recently been appointed by the Governor to serve on the Indiana Veterans Affairs Commission.



Dr. Edward Berger

Faculty Commission Member, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Associate Vice Provost for Learning Innovation, and Director of the Innovation Hub, Purdue University

Professor of Engineering Education and Mechanical Engineering, Purdue University

Edward Berger is the Inaugural Associate Vice Provost for Learning Innovation, and Director of the Innovation Hub, as well as Professor of Engineering Education and Mechanical Engineering at Purdue University. He is also the Executive Director of the Mechanical Engineering Education Research Center at Purdue (MEERCat Purdue), which pursues fundamental research and research-to-practice projects in student success, teaching with technology, and institutional culture and change. He has been a tenured engineering professor at three institutions (University of Cincinnati 1996-2004, University of Virginia 2005-2014, Purdue University 2014-present).



He began his faculty career with a research portfolio broadly in the area of tribomechanics, including dynamics of interfaces and structures with friction. From 2005-2010, his research portfolio underwent a transformation into engineering education research, and since then he has been a PI or co-PI on \$12M+ in federally-funded projects for engineering education research. He has 50+ journal publications across mechanical engineering and engineering education topics. In 2008, he won a Commonwealth of Virginia state-wide teaching award for his integration of technology into undergraduate education.

He recently completed an IPA assignment at the National Science Foundation (August 2019 – December 2020) in the Engineering Directorate, Division of Engineering Education and Centers. He oversaw a \$15M annual budget for engineering education research and collaborated across the agency on programs including ERC, AI Institutes, and Advanced Manufacturing.

Breakout Session Presenters

Roberto Leal

21st Century Scholar Recruiter at South Bend School Corporation

Roberto grew up in South Bend and attended South Bend Community Schools until he graduated from Washington High School in 2011. As a beneficiary of the 21st Century Scholars Program, Roberto attended IU South Bend where he found his passion for education and teaching. Having graduated from IU South Bend with his degree in Secondary Education with a concentration in English/Language Arts, Roberto returned to his former high school to teach Freshman English for three consecutive years. Despite being nominated for Teacher of the Year in his second year of teaching, he felt as if could be doing more to aid students and so Roberto transitioned out of the classroom and into the Department of Student Services where he has served as the 21st Century Scholars Recruiter for the past two years.



Roberto's work directly reflects his journey through the public school system and enjoys networking with members of his community to help connect students and their families to various resources.

Malissa Ayala

Senior Program Officer—Education at Community Foundation of St. Joseph County

Malissa returned to the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County as Senior Program Officer, Education, in 2022 after serving as Director of Span Plan Nontraditional Student Services at Purdue University. She holds a B.S. from Krannert School of Management at Purdue and an M.S. in Design and Technology for Adult Learners. Malissa continues her passion of working with students through scholarship, service, personal development, and mentoring. Previously, Malissa served as Assistant Director, Scholarships at Purdue University, Associate Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships at Indiana University South Bend, and as Program Officer at the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County. In these roles, she engaged with students at many different stages of their educational journeys and helped them navigate complex streams of funding and college access. Her favorite thing about her job is the opportunity to engage with students and families to promote student success.



Chad Addie

Executive Director of GEAR UP South Bend

Chad Addie seeks to be a transformational educator and workforce innovator. He currently serves as the Assistant Superintendent of College and Workforce Readiness for South Bend Community School Corporation. Changing the face of Education through strength-focused, workforce-infused learning is a personal passion. As a K-12 School Administrator with graduate degrees from Indiana University-South Bend and Bethel University (Mishawaka), Chad leads the development of system-wide career pathway programs and facilities that build opportunities inclusive for all students.

As a result of exceptional community partnerships, the U.S. Department of Education awarded Chad's team with a 7-year federal GEAR UP grant of \$13.2 million in 2021 to benefit 2400 students in their postsecondary college and workforce development journeys. Subsequently, the GEAR UP South Bend! work was selected to be highlighted before the U.S. House of Representatives DOL/HHS/EDUCATION subcommittee and entered into the congressional record in testimony in March 2023.

Beyond the workspace, Chad and his wife, Nancy, share the blessings of the family's farm with their LaPorte community, including a menagerie of llamas, mini-horses, donkeys, goats, chickens, a mini-pig and two spoiled dogs. There is no shortage of adventure with six children and nine grandchildren visiting from homes ranging from Los Angeles, California to Cairo, Egypt.



Aaron Black

Superintendent of Schools at Randolph Eastern School Corporation

Aaron Black was born and raised in Union City, Indiana, and was blessed to attend and graduate from Union City Community High School in 2000. He earned his bachelor's degree from Ball State with a license to teach Social Studies and, in 2010, he completed the Educational Leadership Master's program at Ball State. In 2011, He went home to Union City where he served as the Athletic Director/Assistant Principal for 2 years and went on to serve as the Principal of the Jr/Sr High for five years. During his time as principal, he earned his Education Specialist degree from Ball State University which put him in the position to fill his current role as Superintendent of Randolph Eastern School Corporation.

He currently lives in Union City with his beautiful wife, Sarah, and three incredible children, Audrey (16), Braylon (14), and Tynlee (5).



Jason Callahan

Assistant Secretary of Student Pathways and Opportunities at the Indiana Department of Education

Jason Callahan is the current Assistant Secretary of Student Pathways and Opportunities for the Indiana Department of Education. Prior to joining the department, Jason served over 20 years as a building and district administrator.

During this time, Mr. Callahan focused on building a legacy of opportunity for all students, increasing the educational attainment for students through the development and endorsement of an Early College; the creation of a focus on global citizenship to include a Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program and international school partnerships in Japan and China; and the development of career pathways, blurring the lines between K-12, higher education and industry.



Before entering administration, Callahan spent 4 years teaching English language arts. Prior to his service to Indiana students, Mr. Callahan served his country in the United States Air Force. He earned his B.S. in English Education, his Master's in Educational Administration and his Ed.S. from Ball State University. For his work in changing the educational culture in Wabash County, Indiana, Callahan was awarded the State's prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash Award in 2014 from then Indiana Governor and former Vice President Mr. Mike Pence.

Katie Lash

Executive Director & Instructional Program Coordinator at the East Central Educational Service Center

Kathryn (Katie) Lash, Ed.S. is a former teacher, building principal and now Executive Director at the East Central Educational Service Center. With her background in elementary education, high school special education, middle school administration and now serving over 40 districts in the state, her experience offers a perspective that reaches each building level.

When she is not working on making a meaningful impact on education or talking shop with her husband, John, who is also in education, she is enjoying time with her twin daughters.



Brian Disney, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Catholic Schools at the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Dr. Brian Disney has been the Superintendent of Catholic Schools at the Archdiocese of Indianapolis since July 2021. In this role, Dr. Disney serves over 20,000 students and 3,000 educators in 55 archdiocesan elementary schools, 7 archdiocesan high schools, and 5 private Catholic schools.

Prior to joining the archdiocese, Dr. Disney served for 28 years in Indiana public schools, most recently as the Mooresville High School principal from 2013-2021. Additionally, he has served as an assistant principal, guidance counselor/director, math teacher and coach. He earned his BS in Secondary Mathematics Education at Butler University, his MS in School Counseling from IUPUI, and his EdD in Educational Leadership at Indiana University.

Dr. Disney and his wife, Tracy, have been married for 26 years. Their daughter, Kate, and her husband, Colton, work as engineers in Indianapolis.



Joe Brettnacher, Ph.D.

Superintendent of Schools at Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Dr. Joe Brettnacher is the Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in Indiana, overseeing 43 schools across ten counties. He received his Bachelor of Science in Industrial Education from Purdue University, a Master of Science in Secondary Education from Indiana University and a Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership from Andrews University. Dr. Joe taught for five years, worked in the steel mills for ten years, and spent the last 29 years mainly in Catholic school administration. He was the principal of Mount Olive High School in Mount Olive, Illinois, for two years, served as the Principal of Marian High School in Mishawaka, Indiana, for eight years, spent one year at Rossville High School in Rossville, Indiana as principal, and eight years at Lafayette Central Catholic High School, in Lafayette Indiana, as principal or president. Then, Dr. Brettnacher left Central Catholic to become the Superintendent of the Diocese of Columbus in Columbus, Ohio. After three years, he moved closer to his son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren while he worked as the Principal of Fr. Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis, Indiana, for two years.



Now, Dr. Brettnacher is in his fourth year as the Superintendent of the Diocese for Fort Wayne – South Bend and is happy to be in the Diocese, where he started his vocation in Catholic education. Dr. Brettnacher served on the Indiana AdvancED State Committee for six years, has led multiple public and Catholic school accreditation teams over his 29 years in administration, and sits on multiple boards (i.e., INPEA, ICSC, SGO, MUAC, etc.).

Michelle Ashcraft

Associate Commissioner for K-12 Strategy at the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Michelle Ashcraft leads the K-12 outreach team in efforts to increase Indiana's college-going rate. In her role, Michelle oversees and collaborates on strategy to increase middle school students' enrollment in the 21st Century Scholars program, high school Scholars' completion of eligibility criteria to achieve 21st Century Scholars awards in higher education, high school students' completion of the Indiana College Core and other early college credit, and FAFSA filing.

Prior to joining the Commission, Michelle served as the director of Purdue Promise at Purdue University and previously worked for the University of Kentucky in New Student & Parent Programs.

Michelle earned a bachelor's degree from Purdue University and master's degree from the University of South Carolina. She anticipates completing her doctoral degree at Purdue University in May 2023.



Greg Harrell

Director of Legislation & Program Implementation at the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Greg Harrell is the Director of Legislation & Program Implementation at the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE) where he contributes to the agency's policy and legislative agenda.

Additionally, he oversees the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship, which is a key program that recruits and retains the best and brightest Indiana students into the teaching profession.

Greg also is the lead staff member for the Graduate Medical Education Board, which exists to increment graduate medical education in Indiana by funding new residency program slots at licensed hospitals and qualifying non-profit organizations.



Mike Beam

Assistant Vice President for School Partnerships and Senior Assistant Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education at Indiana University

With 30 years of experience in higher and secondary education, Mike focused on practice and policy improvements that drive organizational effectiveness and student success. Beam has been at IU for 21 years, working across campuses and with K12 schools across the state to strengthen partnerships and build collaboration.

Emphases include blurring the lines between secondary and postsecondary education; standards-driven organizations; dual and concurrent enrollment programs; program quality; accreditation; and learning-centered program management.



Trish Wlodarczyk

Director of Strategic Initiatives for the Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL) at the University of Indianapolis

Trish Wlodarczyk is the Director of Strategic Initiatives for CELL (Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning) at the University of Indianapolis. At CELL, Trish has served in several roles since joining the team in 2008, and she currently oversees two dual credit credentialing programs, STEM Teach and Teach Dual Credit Indiana.

Prior to joining the CELL staff, Trish served as the End of Course Assessments Coordinator at the Indiana Department of Education. Prior to that, she worked for the Salt Lake School District in Utah overseeing and developing Language Arts K-12 district-wide assessments and leading professional development for ELA teachers. Prior to her assessment roles, she taught secondary English/Language Arts in Guam, California, and Kansas.

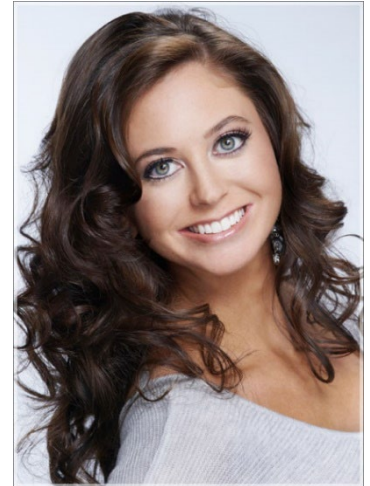


She graduated from Central Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in journalism and advertising. Trish also completed a Master of Arts in Teaching from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri.

Jillian Scholten

Director of Academic Affairs & Talent Credentialing at the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Jillian Scholten is the Director of Academic Affairs and Talent Credentialing at the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. She is a first-generation college graduate who has been working in higher education for 13 years. Jillian started her career in admissions where she collaborated with colleagues to form the Indiana Transfer Council. Jillian now creates and works on databases, websites, and other tools to help students see the value of postsecondary education. These efforts include the Commission's School Finder and the soon-to-be-launched My College Core tool. Her portfolio of projects also includes efforts toward credential transparency, e-transcripts, and learning and employment records.



Josh Garrison, J.D.

Associate Commissioner for Public Policy at the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Josh Garrison is responsible for the administration of Indiana's state financial aid programs, including the 21st Century Scholarship, the Frank O'Bannon Grant and the Workforce Ready Grant. Garrison oversees the Commission's legislative agenda and the implementation of new programs created by the Indiana General Assembly. Prior to joining the Commission, he held positions with Iowa State University and the Michigan Department of Human Services.

Garrison holds a B.S. in Politics and Government from Illinois State University and a Juris Doctor from the Southern Illinois University School of Law.



Sara Scudder

College and Career Access Officer at Idaho State Board of Education

Sara Scudder earned her undergraduate degree in Political Science at Auburn University and obtained a master's in economics from California State University, East Bay. Upon graduation, Sara began working for a survey research firm in Boise, Idaho. Her predisposition for numbers and patterns led her to the Idaho Department of Labor. Over the next decade, she honed her skills in research, career development, team building, marketing, and systems training. While at Labor, she was tasked with the implementation and promotion of the Idaho Career Information System (CIS) along with a statewide AmeriCorps program and a statewide VISTA program. Sara followed this work to the Idaho State Board of Education where she was soon folded into leadership.



Today, she oversees all career readiness initiatives for the state of Idaho, including Next Steps Idaho, Direct Admissions Idaho, Scholarship Idaho, and Apply Idaho. Sara lives in Boise with her husband and two sons.

Karen Dace, Ph.D.

Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

Karen L. Dace is vice chancellor for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). Previously, she served as Deputy Chancellor for Diversity, Access & Equity at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and Associate Vice President for Diversity at the University of Utah. She holds a tenured faculty appointment in Communication Studies and is an adjunct professor in Africana Studies at IUPUI.



Dace had a joint faculty appointment in the Department of Communication and in the Ethnic Studies Program which housed American Indian Studies, Asian Pacific American Studies, African American Studies and Chicana/o Studies while at the University of Utah. She served Director of the Ethnic Studies Program with a faculty of 20-25 tenure-track scholars as well as Director of African American Studies at the University of Utah. As the Associate Vice President for Diversity at the University of Utah, the following offices reported to Dr. Dace: Women & Gender Studies Program; Ethnic Studies Program; American Indian Resource Center; Utah Opportunity Scholars; Center for the Study of Empowered Students of Color; Center for Ethnic Student Affairs; LGBT Student Center; and the Utah Math, Engineering and Science Achievement K-20 Consortium.

As the campus' first Chief Diversity Officer at the University of Missouri—Kansas City, Dace introduced a number of initiatives designed to enhance community-campus relations including the Cesar Chavez, Martin Luther King and Pride Lectures, as well as the First-Year Book and Lecture Program. Additionally, she revamped the tenure-track search process and instituted a faculty retention program to ensure the university held on to faculty.

Dr. Dace's research and teaching experience includes gender and race relations, intercultural communication, conflict management and decision-making. In 2012, she edited, and contributed two chapters to, *Unlikely Allies in the Academy: Women of Color and White Women in Conversation* (Routledge), a book that brought together 10 women of Color and 10 White women to discuss the challenges, barriers and successes in creating alliances across race in university settings. A native of Chicago, Dr. Dace earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Illinois at Chicago and the doctorate in Communication Studies from the University of Iowa.

Dr. Dace is a frequent presenter at the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education (NCORE), Karen Dace has been invited to give lectures on her book, research and issues related to equity and inclusion in higher education and beyond for the New York City Junior League, North American Food Equipment Manufacturers, Mid-Atlantic National Association of Campus Activities Conference, North Carolina State University, Purdue University, Missouri State University, Texas Christian University, University of Wisconsin, University of North Texas, Arizona State University, Fresno State University, University of Colorado, Northern Illinois University, American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), and the Higher Education Leadership Institute for Women (HERS) at Bryn Mawr.

Gaye Walthall

Director of Student Success, Vincennes University

Gaye Walthall is the Director of Student Success at Vincennes University (VU). As director, she oversees initiatives put in place to support retention and increase completion rates for VU students.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics and a Master of Education degree in Counseling from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina. During her 32 years as an educator, she has enjoyed enlightening the minds of students from middle school age through the college level.

Gaye was one of the first Coordinators when the Student Success Center (SSC) opened at VU in 2014 and was appointed Director of the SSC in 2019. She appreciates every opportunity to guide students, faculty and staff towards achieving their goals. Developing strong relationships is the foundation of everything she does, both professionally and personally.



Stephen Goodan

Director of Education Services, Indiana National Guard

Stephen Goodan enlisted in the active-duty Army in 1980 and retired in Feb 2004 as a Command Sergeant Major after serving for 24 years. He earned his bachelor's degree in human resources management in 2003, just prior to retiring. Since leaving the Army in 2004, Mr. Goodan worked in several senior leadership capacities within the telecommunications industry before accepting his current position as Director of Education Services for the Indiana National Guard in May 2020. His team is responsible for providing education counseling and support, test proctoring, incentives program management and employment services advice to over 10,500 Army National Guard soldiers and approximately 2,000 airmen across Indiana.



Stephen served on the board of directors for the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) for 17 years and 4 years with Operation Job Ready Veterans (OJRV). He is also an active member of the AUSA, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Army Non-Commissioned Officers Association, the American Legion, the Army Special Forces Association (Indiana Chapter) and the Sergeant's Major Association.

Stephen has always been passionate about helping military members, veterans and their families who may be in need of guidance or support. He feels he has been able to continue to accomplish that goal in his current role. He welcomes the opportunity to work with any organization willing to assist with those efforts.

Amy Stone

Project Director of Labor VALLO Grant, Ivy Tech Community College

Amy Stone is the Project Director for the Department of Labor VALLO Grant at Ivy Tech Community College. Additionally, she has been serving in the Indiana Army National Guard for 13 years, currently as Aide-de-camp for 81TC Commanding General.

She has served as the Executive Officer in the 438th Chemical Co and as the Recon Platoon Leader. Prior to commissioning, she was an AGR recruiter and military policeman. She graduated from the University of Indianapolis with a BS in Community Leadership and Development. Amy enjoys spending free time with her family and three dogs (a Doberman and two chihuahuas.)



Stacy Townsley, Ph.D.

Associate Commissioner for Adult Strategy, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Dr. Stacy Townsley is responsible for the Commission's adult strategy for postsecondary attainment, leading the development and implementation of policies, partnerships and programs designed to remove barriers and enhance supports for adults seeking to further their education or training.

Prior to serving in this role, Stacy was vice president for adult strategy and statewide partnerships at Ivy Tech Community College. Previous roles in higher education include overseeing research and analysis at the Commission and various academic administrative and adjunct faculty roles at four-year institutions.

Townsley has contributed to the development of national policy and practice frameworks supporting adult learners related to the expansion of the awareness and utilization of credit for prior learning, stakeholder engagement, and data quality. She is a member of the Education Design Lab's Designer in Residence program and is actively involved with the Indiana Talent Network.

She earned her Ph.D. in organizational systems from Saybrook University with a focus on sustainable cross-sector collaboration and holds a master's degree in Latin American studies from the University of Texas at Austin and a bachelor's degree in Spanish and international relations from the University of Tulsa.

