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Indiana Awards More Than \$138,000 to 14 Institutions to Promote College Readiness

Indiana GEAR UP 'Bridge to College Day' grant aims to introduce high school students to postsecondary opportunities

(INDIANAPOLIS) – The [Indiana Commission for Higher Education](#), in partnership with [Indiana Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs \(GEAR UP\)](#) awarded \$138,574 to 14 organizations to expose high school juniors and seniors to postsecondary opportunities and assist them in completing the necessary steps for applications, financial aid and college success during 'Bridge to College Days.'

The Indiana GEAR UP Bridge to College Day is designed to support collaborative efforts focused on the following college and career readiness priorities:

- 21st Century Scholar Success Program (SSP) completion and maintaining academic eligibility
- Parent and family engagement programming
- Financial aid and literacy information
- Understanding Indiana's colleges and universities
- Career exploration and preparation activities

"Education beyond high school provides an opportunity for personal prosperity, and we know there isn't a one-size-fits-all approach to deciding what post-graduation pathway is best," said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery. "The Bridge to College Day grant recipients play a critical role in exposing students to a variety of postsecondary options and career paths while making sure students are aware of available financial aid and on-campus resources so they feel empowered to apply."

Funding for the grants is made possible through Indiana GEAR UP. Indiana GEAR UP is led by a collaborative team of staff from Purdue University and the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. Indiana GEAR UP will follow and provide support to a targeted cohort of students over the course of seven years (2016-23). One of the primary goals of Indiana GEAR UP is to increase the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

Fall 2022/Spring 2022 Bridge to College Day grant recipients:

- Ball State University – \$10,000
- Indiana University Bloomington – \$10,000
- Indiana University Kokomo – \$9,551
- Indiana University Northwest – \$10,000
- Indiana University Southeast – \$9,023
- Ivy Tech Community College Indianapolis – \$10,000
- MADE@Plainfield – \$10,000
- Purdue Polytechnic Anderson – \$10,000
- Purdue Polytechnic Indianapolis – \$10,000
- Purdue Polytechnic Kokomo – \$10,000
- Purdue Polytechnic Lafayette – \$10,000
- Purdue Polytechnic New Albany – \$10,000
- Purdue University Northwest – \$10,000
- Purdue University West Lafayette – \$10,000

For a list of program summaries the grants are supporting, click [here](#).

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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. Learn more about the Commission's [Reaching Higher in a State of Change](#) strategic plan at www.in.gov/che.