**2014 General Assembly**

**Post-Session Update**

**Commission Agenda Items: none for 2014**

**Other Legislation of Note:**

HB 1003: Creates a governance committee for the Indiana Network of Knowledge (formerly IWIS) and an appointed executive director to maintain the daily operations and long-term planning for INK. Allows for private sector business and other private entities (including private colleges) to submit data to INK by working with the executive director. Provides that, to the extent permissible by federal law, regulation, or executive order, the INK governance committee make available to the General Assembly data it requests. It also extends the Training 2000 fund eligibility to school corporations and charter schools. Provides an EDGE tax credit for businesses that employ students who participate in a course of study that includes a co-op between the business and an educational institution for the training of students in high wage, high demand jobs that require industry certifications.

HB 1064: Requires the Indiana Career Council to do a return on investment study career and technical education programs, to be finalized by August 1, 2014.

HB 1196: Gives additional options to public entities, including universities, for the management of construction projects. This is aimed at lowering costs through additional options and competition. State educational institutions can use this process for projects beginning after June 30, 2014, and public entities (other than state educational institutions) can use this process for projects beginning after June 30, 2017. The statute contains a sunset provision of July 1, 2020.

HB 1213: Creates a subcommittee of the Indiana Career Council tasked with reviewing current Core 40 diploma course offerings, examining career and technical education offerings and making recommendations to the state board concerning changes to the types of diplomas offered and/or course requirements and academic credits of the Core 40. The subcommittee consists of the works councils, the director of high school CTE, DOE, Ivy Tech, CHE and industry. If a CTE Diploma is recommended, the bill provides guidance for how the subcommittee should develop the requirements and curricula. The SBOE must act on the recommendations by October 1, 2015, but may only act after consulting with CHE and the Career Council.

HB 1361: Allows university projects under $150,000 to use a quote procedure instead of a bid procedure. Raises the capital review thresholds for CHE, State Budget Committee and the General Assembly to $2 million regardless of the type of project. (Formerly the limits ranged from $250,000 to $750,000.) It moved the review for leases from $150,000 to $500,000. It allows Ball State to be reimbursed for the planning costs of the Cooper Science building if CHE and Budget Committee later approve the project. It requires an institution to seek State Budget Committee approval before refinancing any bonds, and the result of the refinancing must be a reduced debt load; the refinancing cannot result in a longer payoff term. Excluding Ivy Tech, the bill increases the energy savings bond limit from a flat $15M to the greater of $15M or 2% of the total campus repair and replacement value. If an institution exceeds the new maximum the project resulting in the excess debt must recoup in energy savings an amount equal to a reduction in the net present value of the current debt load. The savings repayment period on energy savings bonds changed from 8 years to a flat 10 year rule.

HB 1388: Adds to a law passed last year aimed at creating transparency around the performance of Indiana’s teacher preparation programs (public, private and proprietary). Last year’s law called for the collection of data to inform a rating system to be published on DOE’s website. This year’s bill adds to the data points being collected, converts it to a “matrix rating” instead of a “grade” or “ranking,” creates a committee to establish the ratings formula consisting of DOE, CHE, Independent Colleges of Indiana and the teacher preparation programs.Low performing programs face different types of sanctions, depending on school type. Public college programs and proprietary school programs will be placed on an improvement plan developed by the Commission, with clear performance goals; failure to meet the goals could result in the disapproval of the program. For private, non-profit colleges, the Independent Colleges of Indiana will coordinate a peer review process to make recommendations for improvement.

SB 91: Remove language relating to the Common Core Pause of 2013. Provides that the standards required to be adopted by the SBOE by July 1, 2014 void the adoption of common core and that the new standards must be the highest in the U.S., comply with federal waiver requirements, prepare students for college and career success, maintain Indiana sovereignty and safeguard the confidentiality of student data.

SB 330: Redirects funding from DWD and from CHE’s part-time grant toward adult students pursuing training and postsecondary credentials for high-demand high-wage jobs. Bill also creates a new program, to be administered by CHE beginning in 2018, that would pay off up to $9,000 in student loans for high-performing teachers in STEM disciplines or shortage areas who teach for three years in Indiana after graduation. It also gives flexibility to high-performing high schools to allow college courses (dual credit or AP) to count toward high school graduation.

SB 331: Requires universities to create a program to encourage veterans to enter the field of teaching (so-called “second service” programs). It also requires universities to adopt policies to accept prior learning assessments for veterans and to ensure ease of credit transfer.

SB 367 / HB 1266 : These bills have contained, at one point or another, language that would sunset a number of tax deductions, which testimony indicates was done to force the periodic reauthorization of the deductions. Changes to allow for the sunsetting of the 529 and 21st Century Scholars deductions were not included in the final language.

Items were discussed but did not pass –

Regional Campus / IPFW funding and academic offerings. None of the proposed bills aimed at addressing regional campuses passed. However, a study has been commissioned to look at these issues and produce recommendations this summer.

Harrison College financial aid eligibility. Proposals were heard to place Harrison in a financial aid category that would yield larger awards in dollar terms, but these were shelved until the next budget session.