Higher Education for Students with Intellectual Disabilities:
Implications for the Hoosier State

Background:
College- and University-Based Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

Intellectual Disability

Intellectual disability is a condition characterized by significant limitations in both intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior that originates before the age of 22.

Intellectual Functioning

- Intellectual functioning—also called intelligence—refers to general mental capacity, such as learning, reasoning, problem solving, etc.

  - Generally, an IQ score of 70 indicates a significant limitation in intellectual functioning.

Adaptive Behavior

- Adaptive behavior is the collection of conceptual, social, and practical skills that are learned and performed by people in their everyday lives.

  - Conceptual, social, and practical skills

Source: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Intellectual Disability, Transition to Adulthood & Employment

Employment is one of the most pressing concerns for students with ID after leaving school

- Are more likely to be unemployed

- Earn lower wages

- Are more susceptible to poverty than other disability categories

There are a variety of barriers that impact the earnings potential of this population, including:

- Misunderstandings about disabilities

- Misguided policies

- Lack of options for post-school life

- Scarce understanding of post-secondary options

Indiana's employment data highlights that more work is needed*

- 23% employed in an individual job

- 19% in sheltered employment

*2021 DESOS Report

Higher Education as a Pathway to Better Outcomes

People use a cost-benefit approach to determine whether postsecondary education is appropriate for them

- Does the education, skills, experience and potential salary increase outweigh the time and money needed to attend?

A growing number of jobs require a postsecondary credential.

- 65% of all new jobs will require some form of postsecondary education or training

For many subpopulations of students, the increase in economic potential is significant.

- Degree type (McFarland et al., 2018) gender (Ma et al., 2016) race, and socioeconomic status (Perna, 2005)

This holds true for individuals with ID as well

- Significant increases in salary and wages for students with ID who attend postsecondary programs (Andresen, 2021; Andresen & Nord, 2020)

Movement to Expand Higher Education for Individuals with ID

2008 Higher Education Opportunity Act introduced college-based programs for students with ID into federal legislation
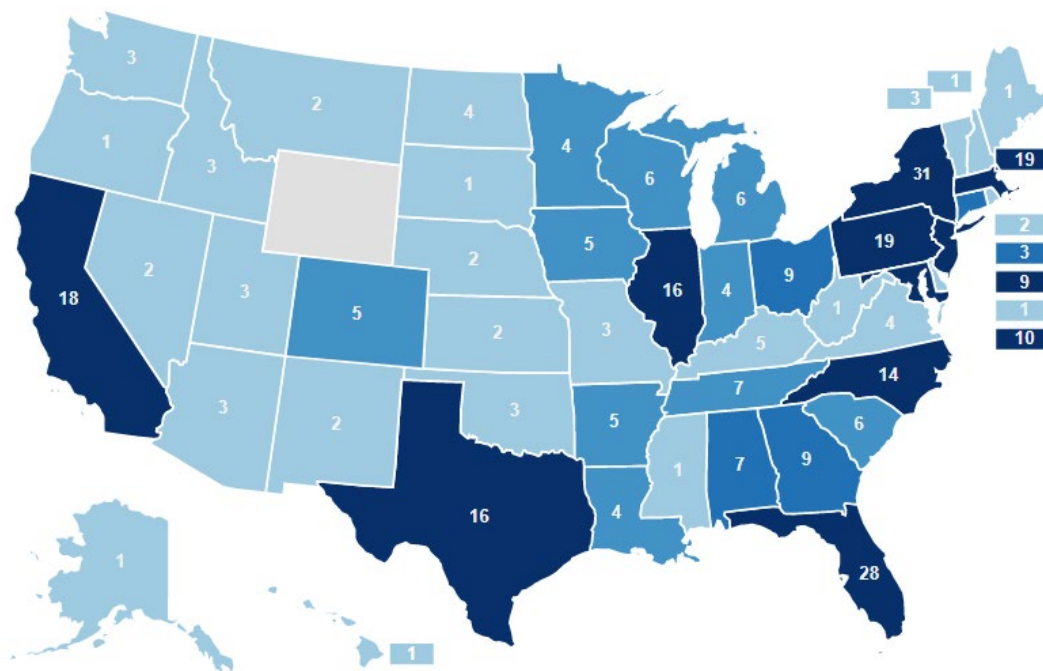
- Grant funding for program start-up or expansion

- National Coordinating Center – Think College

- Availability of Federal Funding for scholarships for some institutions

New addition of the Think College Inclusive Higher Education Network

- Provides ongoing technical assistance and support to all programs

Expansion of Inclusive Higher Education Programs

Over 300 programs expanding across all but one state

- Currently 4 in Indiana

Programs found on a variety of different campuses

- Community colleges
- Public state schools
- Private institutions

Inclusive Higher Education: Differing Formats

Dually Enrolled Model

- Students are still enrolled in their local high school
  - Ages 18-22
- Partnerships built with universities to provide access to courses, facilities, jobs, etc.
  - Majority of staff paid by the local K-12 school district from IDEA or other funds

Institution-Specific Model

- Students apply and enroll as adults, apart from their high school experience
  - Ages 18 and up
- Universities typically take more ownership in the program
  - Staff are university-affiliated, more integrated into the campus community
- Programs are reliant on student tuition, scholarships, grants
- If certified through the national coordinating center, these students can receive federal financial aid through the FAFSA (CTP programs)

These models do not have to be separate, some programs run both simultaneously

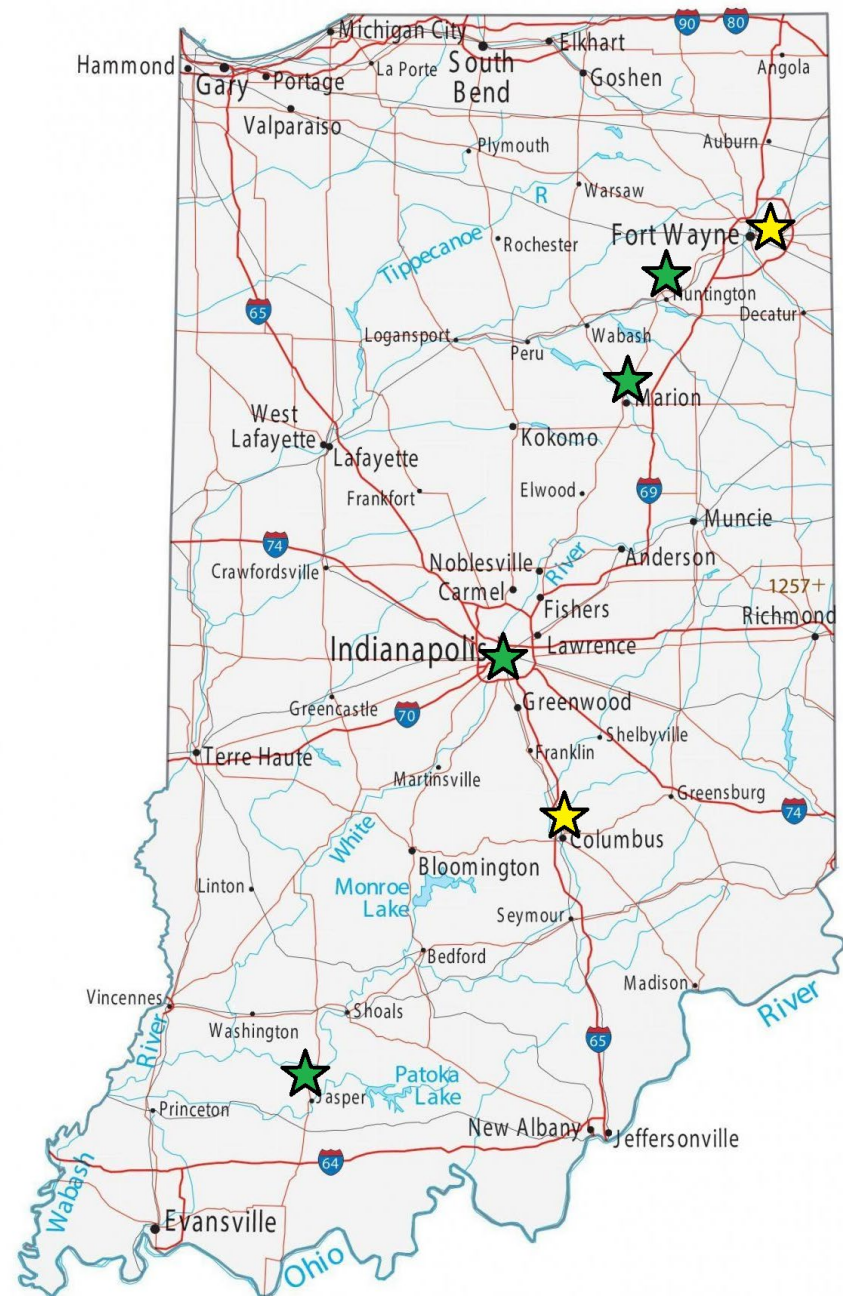# Inclusive Higher Education in Indiana

Inclusive Higher Education in Indiana

4 Programs in Existence - <mark>**(green)**</mark>

- IUPUI
- Indiana Wesleyan University
- Vincennes University – Jasper
- Huntington University

2 Programs in Development – <mark>**(yellow)**</mark>

- Ivy Tech Columbus
- Ivy Tech Fort Wayne

Inclusive Higher Education in Indiana

4 Programs in Existence - <mark style="background-color:#00FF00">(green)</mark>
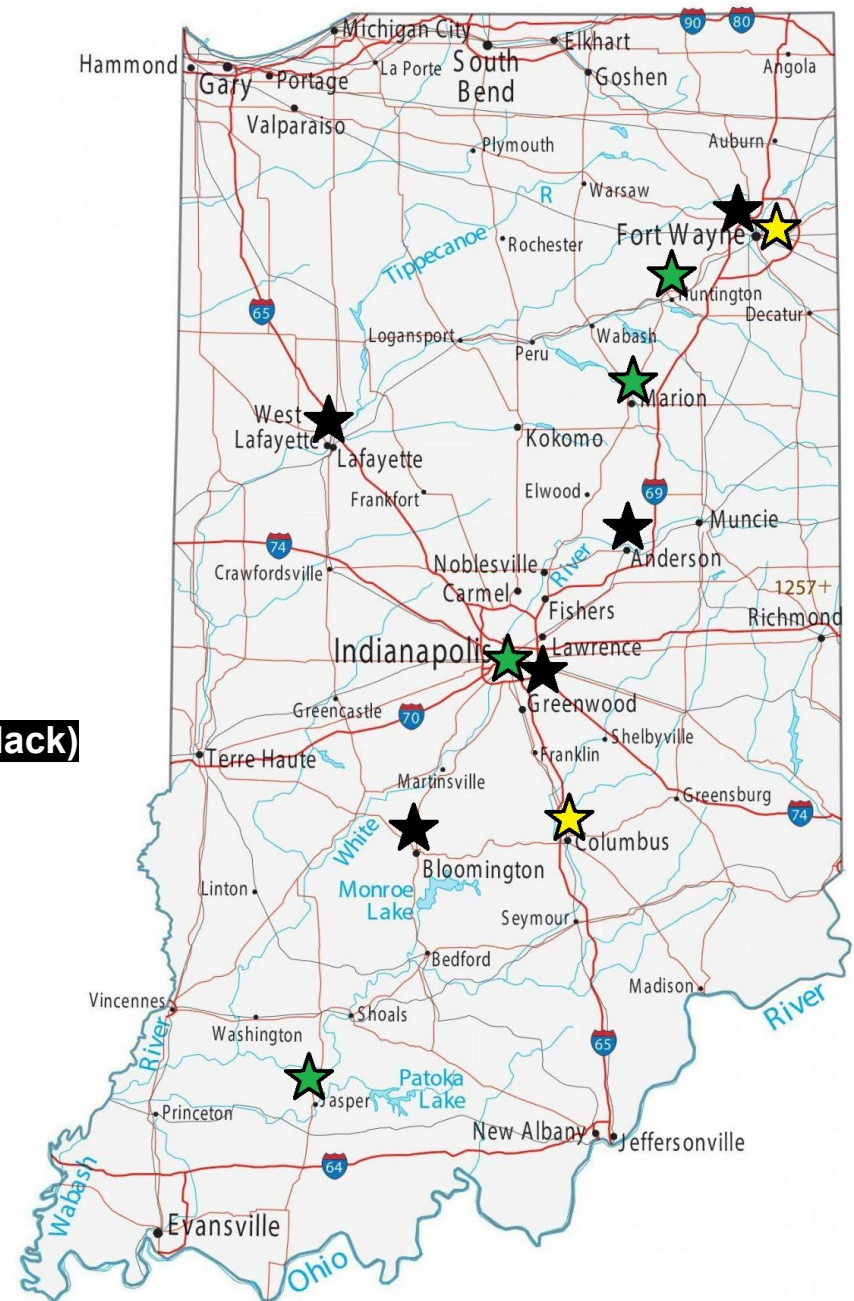
- IUPUI
- Indiana Wesleyan University
- Vincennes University – Jasper
- Huntington University

2 Programs in Development – <mark style="background-color:yellow">(yellow)</mark>

- Ivy Tech Columbus
- Ivy Tech Fort Wayne

5 Programs discussed but not implemented – <mark style="background-color:black;color:white">(black)</mark>

- Marian University
- Anderson University
- Purdue University – West Lafayette
- Indiana University - Bloomington
- University of Saint Francis

Inclusive Higher Education: Differing Formats

All 4 of Indiana's current programs have a dually enrolled model

- Students are still enrolled in their local high school

- Partnerships built with universities to provide access to courses, facilities, jobs, etc.

  – Majority of staff paid by the local K-12 school district from IDEA or other funds

Huntington runs an institution-specific model in addition to their dually enrolled model

- Students will be eligible for federal financial aid

Possibilities for future institution-specific model would need buy-in from institutions of higher education

Intellectual Disability in Indiana

Students with ID represent a critical portion of the Hoosier high school population at-risk for adverse employment outcomes

- 12,611 school age students with mild, moderate or severe intellectual disability*

There are currently only <u>41 students with ID</u> enrolled in a college-based program in the state of Indiana.

- Estimated 1% of the age-eligible students with ID

- 41 of estimated 3,880 students ages 18-22

Disability Category	Count
Mild ID	9,101
Moderate ID	3,241
Severe ID	269

*Data from Indiana Board of Education, 2021

Inclusive Higher Education: Surrounding States

- In comparison with the surrounding states, Indiana has the fewest number of programs
- Indiana additionally has the poorest ratio of estimated individuals with ID to programs

State	Population*	Programs	Ratio
Indiana	74,800	4	18,700 – 1
Michigan	111,100	6	18,516 – 1
Ohio	128,700	9	14,300 – 1
Kentucky	49,500	5	9,900 – 1
Illinois	139,700	16	8,731 - 1

*Estimate based on 1.1% of total state population CDC, 2017

Federal Funding Levers

In 2010, Indiana University received funding through the Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with ID (TPSID) federal grant program

- Expansion of programs at IUPUI and Anderson University

- 5-year grant cycle ended in 2015

In 2020, Indiana University and Purdue University submitted a joint TPSID grant that was ultimately left unfunded

- Potential for future program development

Indiana is working towards two Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Programs (CTPs)

- No students qualify for federal financial aid

Inclusive Higher Education: Surrounding States

States have introduced state-specific structures to bolster these programs

List of State Initiatives for IPSE Programs

- [Link](#)

Ohio

- Expanded eligibility for Ohio College Opportunity grants to students with ID

Iowa

- Introduced scholarship program specifically for students with ID (did not pass)

Kentucky

- Expanded "Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship" to include students with ID
- Annual appropriation to support expansion and creation of inclusive college-based programs

Kentucky's Work Ready Scholarship Program

KRS 164.787

The General Assembly hereby establishes the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship Program to ensure that all Kentuckians who have not yet earned a postsecondary degree have affordable access to an industry-recognized certificate, diploma, or associate of applied science degree **and, for students with intellectual disabilities enrolled in comprehensive transition and postsecondary programs, affordable access to meaningful credentials to prepare for competitive integrated employment.**

……

2(f) "Eligible program of study" means a program approved by the authority that leads to an industry-recognized certificate, diploma, or associate of applied science degree in one (1) of Kentucky's top five (5) high-demand workforce sectors identified by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board and the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet **or a program of study in a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program that leads to a credential, certificate, diploma, or degree;**

From the Field:

Indiana's Current Programs: Students, Families, Directors and Staff

Indiana's Current Programs: Students, Families, Directors and Staff

1. **Indiana Wesleyan University**

   – Lisa Graham & Jamie Westgate

2. **Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis**

   – Margaret Brown & Amanda Futrell

3. **Huntington University**

   – Erica Marshall & Makayla James

4. **Vincennes University Jasper**

   – Mande Keusch

5. **Ivy Tech Fort Wayne**

   – Megan Yoquelet

Conclusion

What's Next?

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How do we think critically about what college is and who is it for?

- What is "student success" for ALL populations?

What role do Indiana's institutions of higher education play in improving the success of Hoosiers with ID?

- A valuable addition to the slate of services for one of our most vulnerable populations

- Competitive integrated employment remains elusive for this population

Collaboration & Communication is Critical

- Frequent conversations between institutions of higher education, colleges of education, disability support offices, local school districts, Vocational Rehabilitation, etc.

- Who can lead and facilitate these conversations?

What can be done from a state level to support these programs?

- Support such as recognition, marketing, funding, etc.

Contact:

John Andresen, Ph.D.

andresjm@iu.edu

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