

**State of Indiana  
Commission for Higher Education**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Thursday, December 10, 2020**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Commission for Higher Education met in regular session starting at 1:00 p.m. virtually via Microsoft Teams videoconferencing, with Beverley Pitts presiding.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

*Members Present:* Mike Alley, Dennis Bland, Anne Bowen, Jon Costas, Trent Engbers, Jud Fisher, Al Hubbard, Pepper Mulherin, Chris Murphy, Dan Peterson, Beverley Pitts, and John Popp

*Members Absent:* Chris LaMothe

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

As you know, we had to change our original plans of being on Ivy Tech Community College central campus today. We certainly miss the opportunity to see the campus and interact with your great staff. Even though we cannot be on campus today, I would like to invite President Sue Ellspermann to say a few words.

President Ellspermann offered her remarks.

Thank you, President Ellspermann, for joining us and for your welcoming comments.

I wanted to draw attention to page 49 in your agenda book which outlines the dates for the 2021 Commission Meetings. I wanted to just mention that these meeting dates are set, and we encourage you to reserve these dates on your calendars, but the locations are subject to change as we continue to monitor the pandemic and our ability to gather in person. Currently, our next meeting in February will be held virtually.

Each year the Commission hosts two large annual convenings, the State of Higher Education Address and the H. Kent Weldon Conference for Higher Education, which typically take place in February and April, respectively. You can anticipate both events to be held virtually next year, with more details coming soon.

Lastly, please tune in for our annual Student Advocates Conference which begins next Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. There are many great keynotes and breakout sessions planned for the three-day event. Please reach out to Jarod Wilson or Liz Walker on Commission staff if you have any questions about the event.

## COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lubbers began her report by stating, the CHE team continues to adapt to changing work routines and needs with a focus on ensuring that the students, institutions and policymakers we serve are getting timely information. Based on the escalation in COVID cases, whenever possible, state employees are provided the option to work remotely through January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Based on the budget recommendations that you approved at our November meeting, Alexa Deaton and I presented these recommendations to the Budget Committee on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Informed by that discussion, we are preparing for our presentation to the Ways and Means Committee in January. We have also provided to the Budget Agency projections about financial aid funding. The state will be provided the official budget forecast next week, and that will impact funding requests from CHE and other agencies.

Our partnership with the Governor's Workforce Cabinet continues to provide opportunities to align educational and employment options. Recently we released an expanded version of YourNextStepIN.org site which focuses on helping Hoosiers find the right education and training opportunities. While the unemployment rate has decreased and now stands at 5%, that is still nearly twice the pre-COVID rate. For some Hoosiers who have gone back to work, their job requirements may have changed. \$75 million of CARES funding was allocated to address education and training needs. The deadline for invoicing those funds is the end of the month unless Congress acts to extend the timeline – which we certainly hope will happen. A portion of the funding was set aside specifically for minority-, women- and veteran-owned businesses. \$7.9 million has been spent to date for these firms.

Last Friday, I joined President Ellspermann and President Huddleston as Ivy Tech and Martin University announced a new partnership that smooths transitions from Ivy Tech to Martin. In particular, the programs of study aligned with the results of our Equity report which showed that disparities exist in the number of minorities who are prepared in STEM fields to be teachers. This partnership seeks to address both of these needs through the creation of a Cyber Entrepreneurship program designed to expand access to the IT field for minority groups. The partnership will also focus on increasing the pipeline of teachers of color by offering guaranteed admissions into Martin's School of Education and scholarship opportunities to Ivy Tech students completing associate degrees in elementary and secondary education.

While our in-person opportunities to highlight our work are limited, we have presented to many organizations about our strategic plan and equity efforts, including the Indiana Latino Institute's Education Summit; Diversity Roundtable of Central Indiana, ExcelinEd's national convening (this is Jeb Bush's group); Indiana Association of Blacks in Higher Education – to name just a few in recent weeks.

And Madame Chair, I would like to acknowledge the recent announcement by Cook to provide new employment opportunities on the east side of Indianapolis and ask if Dan Peterson would share just a few words about this new outreach.

Dan Peterson stated Cook Medical Group is very excited about this project. Like many organizations, when the George Floyd issues bubbled up and the equity and inclusion issues came front and center, they took a hard look at the organization and how they could make contributions to advancing equity and inclusion and opportunities for all. Cook already had experience working with Goodwill of Central and Southern Indiana when they brought an adult education high school Excel Center and satellite Goodwill commercial services facility into the Bloomington area. This site also provided wraparound services for the employees and families, including mental health, substance abuse treatment, housing and education advancement. Cook partnered once again with Goodwill of Central and Southern Indiana, but this time in a more expanded way. This effort led to the collaborative investment with Goodwill and other partners in the Indianapolis area to open a 100-employee site at the corner of Sheridan and 38<sup>th</sup> Street in an economically challenged area of Indianapolis composed predominately of people of color. Cook is excited about what this may do to provide gainful employment and future economic opportunity. Cook is trying to spread the word to encourage other organizations to be thoughtful in this area as an important piece of a broader puzzle of improving opportunity across the country.

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER, 2020 COMMISSION MEETING**

**R-20-12.1 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Minutes of the November, 2020 regular meeting. (Motion – Alley, second – Murphy, unanimously approved)

## **II. BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **A. Legislative Overview**

The legislation and program implementation team presents the 2021 Indiana Commission for Higher Education's legislative agenda. The attached presentation outlines the timeline and plans for the upcoming Legislative Session. The plan includes adjustments to code language for the Next Generation Hoosier Educator Scholarship, closing institutions and the Indiana graduation plan.

Session began with Organization Day on November 17. The houses will convene again on January 4 and will wrap up on or before April 29, 2021.

### **B. Resolution to Adopt the Indiana Attainment Academy Action Plan**

In August 2019, the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) and Education Strategy Group (ESG) brought together seven state teams to participate in an academy focused on meaningful, industry-aligned, postsecondary credential attainment.

Indiana has a Big Goal of 60% of Hoosiers with a quality degree of credential beyond high school by 2025, with all equity gaps eliminated. Currently, Indiana ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation with an attainment rate of 48.5%.

The Commission discussed the action plan at its June 2020 meeting, and the Student Success and Completion Committee reviewed the final version of the action plan and discussed next steps at its October 2020 meeting.

- R-20-12.2 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Resolution to adopt the Indiana Attainment Academy Action Plan, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Peterson, second – Costas, unanimously approved)

**C. *Reaching Higher in a State of Change* Update**

As part of its enabling statute, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education is responsible for developing and implementing a long-range plan for postsecondary education. In December 2020, the Commission adopted its fourth strategic plan, *Reaching Higher in a State of Change*, which builds on the state’s commitment to establish one of the best and most student-focused higher education systems in the nation with clear goals and aligned metrics reflecting new realities in our changing higher education system.

Throughout, *Reaching Higher in a State of Change* acknowledges that higher learning provides value for individuals, employers and our state’s economy. The Commission will continue to position itself as an active and vocal advocate for lifelong learning beyond high school, even as we call for transformative change to ensure the enduring quality, affordability and return on investment of our higher education system.

In advancing this plan, the Commission will work closely with higher education institutions to realize the 60 percent goal and track progress toward implementing the plan’s objectives. As the first year of the plan concludes, the Commission will discuss 2020 implementation and the annual *Reaching Higher in a State of Change* report card currently being developed.

**D. *Career Relevance Survey Results***

In February 2020, the Commission publicized its fourth strategic plan, *Reaching Higher in a State of Change*, which outlined three key metrics, one of which calls for tracking “progress toward 100 percent of postsecondary programs requiring an internship, work-based learning, research project or other student engagement experience that has career relevance.” Undertaking a survey of the extent to which programs currently incorporate career relevant student engagement experiences was viewed as a first step toward satisfying this metric.

To aid in the development and distribution of the survey and the collection of results, a Career Relevance Steering Group was formed. All public institutions were represented on the group, whose members included academic leaders, career development specialists, and government representatives. Many of those on the Steering Group are also members of the Statewide Transfer and Articulation Committee (STAC).

The results of the survey were shared with the Academic Affairs and Quality Committee on November 23, 2020. The presentation at this Commission meeting is intended to broaden discussion of the results and to elicit reactions to follow-up activities being considered for 2021.

**E. Indiana Postsecondary Certificates Report**

Over the past 10 years, Indiana has seen an over 500% increase in certificate production with more certificates being awarded than ever before. Indiana's Postsecondary Certificates Report investigates postsecondary certificates, which play an important role in helping Indiana make progress toward its attainment goal. About 5 percent of the state's educational attainment attributed to postsecondary certificates.

Though the Commission routinely reports on certificate completions, this report goes deeper into student demographics, type of certificates and other information. Special focus is given to Workforce Ready Grant-eligible certificates.

Certificate programs allow working-age Hoosiers to quickly gain new skills and earn a post-high school credential needed to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. Because certificate programs can be completed in a shorter timeframe than associate or bachelor's degree programs, high-demand certificates are a key tool for retraining workers during economic downturns. Almost half of certificate earners in Indiana are adults over the age of 25.

**F. Academic Degree Programs for Expedited Action**

1. Bachelor of Arts in Applied Theatre, Film, and Television to be offered by Indiana University at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis
2. Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence to be offered by Indiana University and Purdue University at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis

**R-20-12.3 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the following academic degree programs, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Hubbard, second – Murphy, unanimously approved)

**III. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. Academic Degree Programs Awaiting Action
- B. Academic Degree Actions Taken By Staff
- C. Media Coverage
- D. Upcoming Meetings of the Commission

**IV. OLD BUSINESS  
NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 P.M.

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Beverley Pitts, Chair

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Jud Fisher, Secretary