



INDIANA COMMISSION
for
HIGHER EDUCATION

Policy on Vincennes University's Role and Mission

As Approved, May 13, 2011

Preamble

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education is required by the Indiana General Assembly to “plan for and coordinate Indiana’s state supported system of postsecondary education (I.C. 21-18-6-1),” with the authority to “develop, update, and implement a long range plan for postsecondary education (I.C. 21-18-8-1).”

*In the context of that statutory charge, the Commission updated its **Policy on Regional Campus Roles and Missions** (June 2010) in order to better delineate the purpose of those campuses in Indiana’s state system of higher education. That policy requires the regional campuses to focus primarily on baccalaureate degrees and significantly depart from offering associate degrees and eliminate all remedial education. As such, it has become increasingly important that Vincennes University and Indiana’s community college system focus their respective roles on providing high quality associate degrees and workforce credentials for Hoosiers.*

The Commission regards Vincennes University as a valuable contributor to the state’s system of higher education, serving a unique and vital role to provide educational access and innovative career programming in a student-centered environment. Vincennes University is a predominantly two-year institution with a residential component that emphasizes: business and industry training, career and technical education, academic transfer, an Early College program, and dual credit courses. The university also offers a limited number of baccalaureate degrees associated with Indiana’s workforce needs. Much of the institution’s recent growth is coming from high school enrollments through dual credit and Early College courses.

Building on its historic mission as a two-year liberal arts and career/technical institution, Vincennes University has an opportunity to evolve its role in advancing the state’s educational and economic needs. The following policy is the result of a year-long process led by the Commission’s Strategic Directions committee in consultation with Vincennes University leadership to clearly articulate that institution’s role in helping to create a more efficient and effective higher education system for Indiana.

Vincennes University's role and mission should reflect the following actions:

1. Expand its historic role of serving students with academic potential by assisting them to become successful graduates and transfer students.
2. Increase the number of high-quality, transferable associate degrees and certificates earned in the Vincennes/Jasper region, in alignment with regional economic interests; and elsewhere in the State as clearly indicated by Vincennes University's role and mission, economic demand, and without unnecessarily duplicating such degree offerings by other Indiana state institutions.
3. Increase the number of high-quality baccalaureate degrees earned in existing baccalaureate programs. Any proposals for additional baccalaureate degree programs must be in accordance with Vincennes University's role and mission, address state economic interests, and not unnecessarily duplicate degree offerings by other Indiana state institutions.
4. Meet the Commission's standards for an approved *Early College* model which focuses on increasing college access and success for underrepresented students in higher education.
5. Continue to provide Dual Credit courses to secondary students in Indiana that are transferable throughout the state's higher education system upon successful completion.
6. Continue to serve Hoosier residents and out-of-state students in the military with high-quality, highly-regarded degree programs funded by resident and non-resident tuition and fees.
7. Continue to offer the unique full-college, residential experience at the Vincennes campus.
8. Continue to embrace the commuting student population, which includes providing a quality educational experience at the Jasper campus that embraces traditional and non-traditional students and workforce career and technical needs.