



VINCENNES UNIVERSITY
CHARLES R. JOHNSON, JR., PRESIDENT

August 29, 2022

Mr. Zachary Jackson, Director
Indiana State Budget Agency
State House, Room 212
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Mr. Chris Lowery, Commissioner
Indiana Commission for Higher Education
101 West Ohio Street, Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Partners in Education,

On behalf of Vincennes University, I respectfully submit our 2023-2025 operating and capital state appropriations request.

Vincennes University remains committed to and focused on the unique mission that we serve – to provide an accessible and affordable education that leads our graduates to good careers in Indiana. As the state's most affordable residential college, VU provides a strong return on investment for our students and the State. However, we know that numerous families are still struggling with the financial impact of the pandemic and we continue to look for additional ways to make college even more financially viable. The Residential Opportunity Scholarship is a housing scholarship for up to \$5,000 available to all incoming and returning students. Through this scholarship, VU is doing our part to ensure as many students as possible can take advantage of the full residential college experience offered at Vincennes University.

Equally as important as accessibility and affordability is ensuring our students are career-ready and on a path to gain meaningful employment. Our employer-driven programs such as the Southern and Central IN-FAME programs (sponsored by Toyota, Red Gold, 3M, Hershey and others), Subaru Advanced Internship in Manufacturing, Cummins Technician Apprenticeship Program, John Deere Agriculture Technician Program and Amazon Mechatronics and Robotics Apprenticeship combined with our relationships with airlines, healthcare systems and businesses throughout the state all allow students to learn while they work. We continue to invest in and grow these work-based learning programs as they are a promising strategy for not only reducing the cost of college by providing paid internships but also lead to a high-wage job opportunity upon graduation. These training programs are aligned to help companies grow and expand in Indiana while also being flexible to assist with the attraction of new companies.

We certainly recognize that the decline in Indiana's college-going rate is of great concern and appreciate the Indiana Commission for Higher Education's recent initiatives and investments to reverse this trend. Employment and quality of life are directly related to education and we are prepared to partner with ICHE and our sister institutions to continue to show the value of higher education. One way that Vincennes University is hoping to help increase the percentage of high school students, particularly first-generation, students of color, and other traditionally underserved populations, pursuing post-secondary education is by expanding our Pre-College Programs. By growing our summer programs, such as the Summer STEM Academy, Techmester and Jobs for America's Graduates programs, as well as camps throughout the

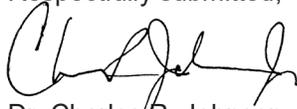
year, we hope to inspire more students to see themselves as college-level and college-deserving students.

Career and technical education remains at the heart of VU's vision for supporting economic and workforce development. In partnership with the State of Indiana, VU has led the efforts to redesign career and technical education in the k-12 system. Our 18 Career and Technical Early Colleges provide a cost-effective opportunity for high school students to obtain certifications and degrees in high-demand areas such as advanced manufacturing and information technology.

Vincennes University's capital budget request is focused on the maintenance of our current facilities and infrastructure as well as projects that are critical to Indiana's workforce development including the Center for Health Sciences and Active Learning. This new facility will help Vincennes University grow enrollment in nursing and other health sciences programs and support healthcare systems regionally and throughout the state.

Thank you to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education and the Indiana General Assembly for your support of Vincennes University and higher education.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles R. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "J".

Dr. Charles R. Johnson
President
Vincennes University

Vincennes University
2023-2025 Operating and Capital Budget Request

Operating Appropriations

Indiana's Performance Funding Formula determines changes to university operating appropriations. The funding level is based on VU's performance in the following metrics: overall degree completion, at-risk student degree completion, STEM degree completion, on-time degree production and student persistence.

Dual Credit

Vincennes University requests \$50 per credit hour for students completing dual credit courses for a total request of \$4,882,450 per year. Through VU's two dual credit programs, Project EXCEL and Early College, 11,581 students earned 97,649 credit hours in fiscal year 2021. Vincennes University's dual credit programs are helping to increase college completion rates while significantly reducing costs for students and their families. Project EXCEL is a nationally recognized dual credit program that has offered high quality courses to high school students across the state for more than 40 years. Vincennes University was the first institution in Indiana to provide dual credit and is accredited by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP). Project EXCEL's NACEP accreditation demonstrates its achievement of NACEP standards for academic integrity, program rigor and student achievement. According to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, dual credit earners are less likely to stop out of college and more likely to complete on time or early. Combined, students and the State of Indiana can realize about \$160 million in savings from the impact of dual credit each year. For a state looking to boost college completion rates and keep college affordable, dual credit is an important state investment.

Repair and Rehabilitation

Vincennes University's state budget request includes \$2,103,453 for Repair and Rehabilitation in the 2023-2025 biennium. This is based on the Indiana Commission for Higher Education's defined repair and rehabilitation formula. This funding protects and preserves the University's and the State of Indiana's capital investments by extending the life of the institution's facilities and infrastructure.

Line Item Appropriation

Vincennes University requests \$4,250,000 for FY24 and \$4,250,000 for FY25 for Indiana's Career and Technical Early College program. Vincennes University has strategically established 18 Career and Technical Early Colleges throughout the state inside k-12 career centers. These training centers 1) save the State of Indiana, students and Hoosier families significant costs by providing a cost-effective pathway to a technical degree 2) meet the workforce demands of the advanced manufacturing and other high-skill, technology-driven industries that support the state's economic and workforce development, and 3) foster the skill sets of high school students whose goals may not include bachelor degrees but rather wish to quickly acquire an industry-recognized certification or A.S. degree that will provide them with the pathway to immediate job opportunities. This request will ensure that Vincennes University can support the operating and equipment costs associated with previous expansion efforts as well as future programs. Additionally, it will allow VU to support and maintain the \$10 million in new technology and training equipment located at the career centers.

Capital Budget Request

Vincennes University's capital budget request places a strong emphasis on the maintenance of our current facilities and infrastructure as well as projects that are critical to Indiana's workforce development.

Priority 1: Center for Health Sciences and Active Learning - \$33,900,000

The Vincennes University Center for Health Sciences was built in 1970 with a major addition in 1991. The 37,031 square foot facility is home to VU's Nursing, Surgical Technology, Pharmacy Technology, Physical Therapy Assistant, Funeral Service Education, Health Information Management and Health Care Service Administration programs. Vincennes University's Nursing program prides itself on a high pass rate of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing's NCLEX licensure exam. More importantly, 95% of our students take the NCLEX exam for Indiana licensing, indicating their intentions to work in Indiana. Many of our other health sciences programs of study have pass rates well above the national average.

While the need for nurses grew quickly during the COVID-19 pandemic, this job shortage was not new to Indiana. Nursing occupations are some of the highest in-demand jobs in the state and the shortage is affecting hospitals, doctor's offices, schools and long-term care facilities. The Indiana Governor's Public Health Commission report recently cited "enhancing workforce recruitment" as a key recommendation for improving Indiana's public health ranking of 40 out of 52.

Several of Vincennes University's health sciences programs, including Nursing, are currently restricted in enrollment numbers because the Center for Health Sciences does not have adequate simulation labs to accept additional students. Accreditation standards require specific simulation training time and the current facility does not have simulation laboratories to increase capacity. Furthermore, the laboratories meet minimal accreditation standards and will soon require significant upgrades. The proposed 70,000 square foot Center for Health Sciences and Active Learning will feature state-of-the-art clinical simulation labs equipped with high-fidelity manikins, virtual reality simulators and video recording systems. This new facility will allow Vincennes University to grow enrollment in our health sciences programs and help support Indiana's healthcare systems.

The first floor of the facility will feature active learning spaces that will promote collaborative, team-based, flexible learning. Modeled after Purdue University's Wilmeth Active Learning Center, VU's Active Learning classrooms will be utilized by all Colleges on campus, integrating dynamic and engaging learning.

Priority 2: Multi-Campus Infrastructure Upgrades - \$23,856,000

The Multi-Campus Infrastructure Upgrades project demonstrates Vincennes University's commitment to the core maintenance of its existing facilities and the infrastructure that supports its campuses. The institution is requesting capital funding for this mission-critical project that addresses urgent campus needs related to utility and building infrastructure. These repairs and upgrades will replace existing systems and infrastructure that have exceeded their useful lifecycle and, in many cases, have gone well beyond obsolescence. These investments will result in lower utility costs, better system efficiencies and other operational savings. The components of this project include: 1) Multi-Facility HVAC, Electrical and Communication Upgrades 2) Phase III: Steam Plant and Steam Line Upgrades and 3) Multi-Facility Chiller, Heat Pump and Air Handler Replacements.

Priority 3: Welding Technology Training Center - \$9,585,000

The Vincennes University Welding Technology Program is one of the top programs in the nation for post-secondary welding education and training. Lincoln Electric, the global manufacturing leader in welding products, plays an integral part in the Welding Technology Program – educating and training VU's instructors and providing new welding training machines, equipment and supplies each year. VU's welding lab has simply been outgrown and, due to its location and condition, is not an ideal facility to add additional space. The facility has only one classroom, one office for multiple welding staff, inadequate lab space and insufficient support spaces. The facility is in operation 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday through Friday

and scheduling remains a significant obstacle. Additionally, the training lab areas are not large enough to accommodate additional welding training booths and students cannot take advantage of larger welding projects. Companies such as Lincoln Electric would like to conduct their workforce development training at Vincennes University but lab constraints restrict them from doing so. The new 25,000 square foot Vincennes University Welding Technology Center will be designed to house the latest in welding equipment and welding training technology. Much of this technology will be housed in the welding laboratories that offer hands-on training and education of manual welding, automated machine welding and various other skills necessary for the advancing welding field. The facility will also feature smart classrooms to enhance the student learning experience, faculty office areas and student study areas.

**Vincennes University
Operating and Capital Appropriations Request**

	2023-2024	2024-2025
Operating Appropriation	TBD by Performance Funding Formula	TBD by Performance Funding Formula
Dual Credit	\$ 4,882,450	\$ 4,882,450
Line-Item: Career and Technical Early College	\$ 4,250,000	\$ 4,250,000
General Repair and Rehabilitation	\$ 1,051,727	\$ 1,051,726
Capital Budget Request		
1. Center for Health Sciences and Active Learning	\$ 33,900,000	
2. Multi-Campus Infrastructure Upgrade	\$ 23,856,000	
3. Welding Technology Training Center	\$ 9,585,000	