



INDIANA COMMISSION for
HIGHER EDUCATION



INDIANA PARTNERSHIP PENTAGON

MEETING THREE | PROGRAM BOOK

OBJECTIVE

Participation in the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (the Commission) Partnership Pentagon will allow the Commission to develop and expand critically important collaboration with thought leaders from five key sectors of society, including business, government, education (K-12 and higher education), non-profits (community- and faith-based organizations) and philanthropy. A group of leaders throughout Indiana, the Partners, will be working in concert with the Commission over 18 months to better understand and propose solutions around Indiana's challenges and opportunities related to higher education. The intent of this work will be to maximize the collective impact of the five sectors amongst one another as multiplicative, rather than simply additive. The Hunt Institute will work alongside the Partners and Commission staff to provide support in the form of facilitation, research and design thinking to fully develop ideas for policies and programs and deepen partnerships.

The Commission is currently setting long-term goals to address higher education trends, such as reversing the declining college-going rates for youth and adults, continuing to improve student persistence and completion, and increasing graduate retention in Indiana. These strategic areas are part and parcel of improving, and reevaluating overall college attainment rates for Indiana. The Ultimate goal is to create a culture where Hoosiers, individually and together:

- Place great value on education, specifically opportunities beyond a high school diploma.
- Recognize and embrace the fact that this is a fundamental for individuals to be locally and globally competitive.
- Reverse declines in and robustly improve in measurable areas such as college going-rates, completions, and graduate retention.
- Individually commit to continuously increasing their own degree of preparedness in the workforce and more broadly civil society.
- Challenge the belief – some may even say culture – that casts doubt on the value of education and training beyond high school as a pathway to prosperity and lift up the virtues of education, predicated on facts that offer clear evidence of return on investment and economic and social mobility.

Since the state began tracking postsecondary attainment in 2009, over two-thirds of Indiana's growth has come from sub-associate degree credentials (technical certificates, certificates and industry certifications) while growth stagnated for associate degrees and higher. When examining attainment with bachelor's degrees and above, Indiana lost ground in national rankings moving from 39th to 43rd.

The guiding principles of the Partnership Pentagon will be to increase opportunities to access economic and social mobility and prosperity for all Hoosiers. For employers, these principles yield a robust and future-oriented talent pipeline and more stable and thriving communities throughout Indiana. While the Commission team has begun to pursue a historic agenda during the current legislative session at the Statehouse to reverse noted trends and catalyze opportunities, Commissioner Lowery believes that deep and long-term improvements will require collaborative and concerted work by the five key sectors of society for truly transformational change. Thus, the creation of the Partnership Pentagon.

By the end of the 18-month period, which will include six meetings of the Partners, the expectation is to have a comprehensive set of policy and budget recommendations that can be taken to the full Commission, the Governor and the Indiana General Assembly for action in the 2025 biennial budget session.



MONDAY. OCTOBER 16, 2023

9:00 AM – 9:10 AM : REGISTRATION & COFFEE

9:10 AM – 9:25 AM : WELCOME REMARKS AND DISCUSSION OF ACTION ITEMS FROM MEETING 2

Dr. Madeline Smith, Managing Director, The Hunt Institute

@Hunt_Institute

Chris Lowery, Commissioner, Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education

@ChrisLoweryIN // @HigherEdIN

9:25 AM – 9:30 AM : BREAK

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM : FOSTERING ENGAGEMENT AND SUCCESS FOR ADULT LEARNERS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

As institutions of higher education (IHEs) strive to support adult learners, they face the challenge of catering to diverse demographics. This includes parents, full-time employees, individuals new to higher education, as well as students who have paused or transferred their educational pursuits. The evolving enrollment landscape emphasizes the need for comprehensive and adaptable support systems to meet the varied requirements of adult learners. This session will explore the best practices for engaging and re-engaging adult students in postsecondary education.

MODERATOR

Dr. Jeffrey Buck, Dean of School of Business and Technology, Purdue Global Representative

@purdueglobal

RESOURCE EXPERTS

Jennifer Gasiorek, Vice Chancellor for Workforce Partnerships and Strategic Communications, Muncie “WorkMatters” Initiative

@IvyTechCC

Stephanie Fritz, Senior Director, Strategic Research and Analytics, United Way of Central Indiana

@uwci

Denise Luster, Chief Intelligence and Information Officer, United Way of Central Indiana

@uwci



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10:30 AM - 11:30 AM **BREAKOUT AND REFLECTION SESSION**

Members will break into small groups to discuss what policies Indiana can implement to engage and re-engage adult students in higher education. At the end of the breakout session, each group should be prepared to identify two to three policy priorities and actionable items. One member of each group will report their discussion, including the two to three policy priorities. The group conversation will review the common features of policy priorities and action items identified in the small groups and will give committee members an opportunity to provide additional feedback and context on their recommendations.

MODERATOR

Dr. Madeline Smith, Managing Director, The Hunt Institute
 @Hunt_Institute

11:30 AM - 12:15 PM **LUNCH**

12:15 PM - 1:00 PM **OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ADULT LEARNERS**

For adult learners, engaging or re-engaging in postsecondary education involves navigating numerous barriers that extend beyond financial considerations. Family dynamics, work commitments, limited access to resources, and personal obligations are just a few of the challenges they encounter. Recognizing the multifaceted nature of these obstacles, institutions of higher education (IHEs) need to adopt a holistic approach to support adult learners effectively. This session aims to explore a wide range of barriers faced by adult learners and identify strategies for overcoming them.

MODERATOR

Dr. Stacy Townsley, Associate Commissioner for Adult Strategy, Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education
 @StacyTownsley

RESOURCE EXPERTS

Earl Buford, President, Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)
 @CAELnews

Dr. Beth Doyle, Senior Vice President, Initiatives & Solutions, CAEL
 @CAELnews

Kent Kramer, President & CEO, Goodwill of Central and Southern Indiana
 @GoodwillKAK






1:00 PM - 1:45 PM **BREAKOUT SESSION**

Members will break into small groups to discuss ideas for addressing the barriers that adult learners face in pursuing postsecondary credentials. Resource experts will remain at this session to participate in the small and large group discussions. At the end of the breakout session, each group should be prepared to identify two to three policy priorities and actionable items. One member of each group will report their discussion, including the two to three policy priorities. The group conversation will review the common features of policy priorities and action items identified in the small groups and will give committee members an opportunity to provide additional feedback and context on their recommendations

MODERATOR

 **Dr. Stacy Townsley**, Associate Commissioner for Adult Strategy, Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education

 [@StacyTownsley](#)

1:45 PM - 2:00 PM **REFLECTIONS AND CLOSING REMARKS**

 **Chris Lowery**, Commissioner, Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education

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RESOURCE EXPERTS



@purdueglobal

Dr. Jeffrey Buck

Dean of School of Business and Technology, Purdue Global Representative

A native Hoosier and military veteran, Dr. Jeffrey Buck brings more than 30 years of teaching and higher education administration experience to his role as dean in the School of Business and Information Technology at Purdue University Global. In addition to earning tenure as faculty member, Buck has held multiple executive level positions in higher education. Jeff is actively involved with business program accreditation, and has served as chair for the Great Lakes Region of the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP).



@IvyTechCC

Jennifer Gasiorek

Vice Chancellor for Workforce Partnerships and Strategic Communications, Muncie "WorkMatters" Initiative

After more than 25 years of corporate experience, Jennifer Gasiorek began her journey in Higher Education 7 years ago as an adjunct. She quickly found her passion and Ivy Tech's mission. She was appointed Vice Chancellor of Workforce and Strategic Communications. She also serves as the statewide lead for Ivy Tech's System Office for the Achieve Your Degree Program. Her role is to work with employers and community leaders to help employees utilize their tuition assistance programs to skill up encumbered workers. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Ball State University and a Master's from Purdue. She is a mother to Emma aged 18 and Nicholas 13. In her spare time, you can find her on the sidelines cheering them on throughout the year.



@uwci

Stephanie Fritz

Senior Director, Strategic Research and Analytics, United Way of Central Indiana

Stephanie Fritz serves as the Senior Director of Strategic Research and Analytics Director for United Way of Central Indiana. Stephanie guides the reporting and analytics process for United Way's impact strategy, community data strategies, and oversees the community partner accreditation process. Across these strategies, Stephanie leads a research team that focuses on how community data can inform and support the human services sector. Her priorities include developing reporting and analytic tools with community-based organizations in mind. Before her time at UWCI, Stephanie was an admissions and retention analyst for graduate and non-traditional programming at the University of Indianapolis.



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@uwci

Denise Luster

Chief Intelligence and Information Officer, United Way of Central Indiana

Denise Luster is the Chief Strategic Intelligence and Information Officer at United Way of Central Indiana. Denise has over 20 years of experience in the design and execution of evaluation strategies, data analytics, social research, and program evaluation including outcomes measurement. As Chief Intelligence Officer of Strategic Intelligence & Information, Denise determines the essential research projects that informs our community impact strategy and leads on data analytics, program evaluations, planning initiatives, and reports to stakeholders. In her career, Denise conducted data-driven analyses to inform the development and implementation of strategic and tactical plans to accomplish the organization’s mission and financial goals.



@StacyTownsley

Dr. Stacy Townsley

Associate Commissioner for Adult Strategy, Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education

Dr. Stacy Townsley is responsible for the Commission’s adult strategy for postsecondary attainment, leading the development and implementation of policies, partnerships and programs designed to remove barriers and enhance supports for adults seeking to further their education or training. Prior to serving in this role, Stacy was vice president for adult strategy and statewide partnerships at Ivy Tech Community College. Previous roles in higher education include overseeing research and analysis at the Commission and various academic administrative and adjunct faculty roles at four-year institutions. Townsley has contributed to the development of national policy and practice frameworks supporting adult learners related to the expansion of the awareness and utilization of credit for prior learning, stakeholder engagement, and data quality.



@CAELnews

Earl Buford

President, Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)

As the president of CAEL (Council for Adult and Experiential Learning), Earl Buford oversees the national nonprofit organization’s work to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth for adult learners in collaboration with workforce and economic developers, post-secondary educators, employers, industry groups, foundations, and other mission-aligned groups. Before CAEL, Buford was the Chief Executive Officer of Partner4Work, the leader of the public workforce system for Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, as well as Employ Milwaukee, where he was nationally recognized for implementing and integrating a sector-based approach to workforce development. Buford was also the leader of one of the first intermediaries in the country, WRTP/BIG-STEP.



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@CAELnews

Dr. Beth Doyle

Senior Vice President, Initiatives & Solutions, CAEL

As Senior Vice President for Initiatives & Solutions at CAEL, Doyle oversees a team providing services for workforce and economic developers, postsecondary education institutions, and employers who improve adult learning opportunities. Her team manages large multi-year projects, delivers professional development offerings, and provides technology-enabled tools that scale prior learning assessment and career navigation. Doyle started her learning journey at a community college and earned her bachelor's degree as a returning adult student at DePaul University. She also completed the Executive Development Program at Michigan State University and earned her Ed.D at Fielding Graduate University.



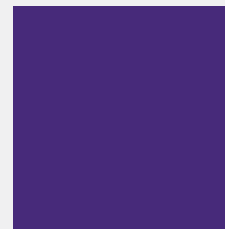
@GoodwillKAK

Kent Kramer

President & CEO, Goodwill of Central and Southern Indiana

Kent A. Kramer joined Goodwill of Central and Southern Indiana in 2002 as Vice President of Retail Operations, later serving as Chief Operating Officer. In 2015, he was named President and CEO. Kramer leads 4,700 employees (two-thirds of whom have a significant employment barrier) who educate more than 4,500 students in 17 high schools and provide direct services to more than 4,000 low-income families in central and southern Indiana. He is a proud alumnus of Indiana State University (BS, Management) and Anderson University (MBA). Kramer and his wife (Jamei) reside in Pendleton and have 4 adult children.

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ABOUT THE PARTNERS

THE HUNT INSTITUTE | <https://hunt-institute.org/about/>

Established in 2001, The Hunt Institute honors the legacy of James B. Hunt, Jr., the former governor of North Carolina who distinguished himself as an ardent champion of education. The Hunt Institute brings together people and resources to inspire and inform elected officials and policymakers about key issues in education, resulting in visionary leaders who are prepared to take strategic action for greater educational outcomes and student success. Our mission is to provide unbiased research, technical expertise, and learning opportunities that equip and empower educators and policymakers to drive equitable reforms and become audacious champions for education.

INDIANA COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION | <https://www.in.gov/che/>

Created in 1971 by an act of the General Assembly and signed into law by then Governor Edgar Whitcomb, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education is now in its fifth decade of service to the State of Indiana. The Commission is a fourteen-member public body created to:

- Define the educational missions of public colleges and universities;
- Plan and to coordinate Indiana's state-supported system of post-high school education, taking into account the plans and interests of independent colleges and universities;
- Review both operating budget and capital budget appropriation requests from public institutions;
- Approve or disapprove for public institutions the establishment of any new branches, campuses, extension centers, colleges or schools;
- Approve or disapprove for public institutions the offering of any additional associate, baccalaureate or graduate degree or certificate program of two semesters or more in duration;
- Review all programs of public institutions and make recommendations to the governing board of the institution, the Governor, and the General Assembly concerning the funding and the disposition of these programs; and,
- Distribute student financial aid from state aid programs.

The Commission is not a governing board, but a coordinating agency that works closely with Indiana's public and independent colleges. In addition, The Commission has strong working relationships with many other State agencies, including: Department of Education, the Department of Workforce Development and the Independent Colleges of Indiana.



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THE HUNT INSTITUTE LEADERSHIP & STAFF



The Honorable Arne Duncan

U.S. Secretary of Education, 2009-2016 | Chair, Board of Directors

After serving as a cabinet member under President Barack Obama, Arne Duncan returned home to Chicago in 2016, committed to trying to dramatically reduce the amount of gun violence in our city and allow children on the South and West sides to grow up free of fear and trauma.

[View full bio on our website](#) >



The Honorable Susana Martinez

Governor of New Mexico, 2011 - 2018 | Vice Chair, Board of Directors

In 2010, Susana Martinez was elected governor of the State of New Mexico. She became New Mexico's first female governor and the first Hispanic female governor in the history of the United States. Prior to being elected governor, Martinez was a prosecutor for 25 years along the nation's southern border and served as Doña Ana County's elected district attorney for over half that time. As governor, she prioritized keeping New Mexico's communities safe, ensuring all students receive a high-quality education, and diversifying and growing the state's economy.

[View full bio on our website](#) >



Javaid E. Siddiqi, Ph.D.

President & CEO

Former Virginia Secretary of Education Dr. Javaid Siddiqi is the President and CEO of The Hunt Institute. During his tenure The Institute has more than tripled its staff and has expanded its scope of work beyond K-12 to include the entire education continuum from early childhood to postsecondary and the workforce. Javaid works with the leadership team to guide the strategic plan for The Institute and develops The Institute's relationships with partners and funders across the nation. He works with senior-level elected officials across the political aisle to help design strategy, shape policy, and drive educational improvements on the national and state levels.

[View full bio on our website](#) >

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Established in 2001, [The Hunt Institute](#) honors the legacy of James B. Hunt, Jr., the former governor of North Carolina who distinguished himself as an ardent champion of education.

The Hunt Institute brings together people and resources to inspire and inform elected officials and policymakers about key issues in education, resulting in visionary leaders who are prepared to take strategic action for greater educational outcomes and student success.

In 2016, The Hunt Institute became an independent, nonprofit entity and joined forces with Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy to pursue research, educational partnerships, and events related to improving education policy.

Learn more at www.hunt-institute.org.



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