



INDIANA COMMISSION for
HIGHER EDUCATION



INDIANA PARTNERSHIP PENTAGON

MEETING FOUR | 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. JANUARY 29, 2024

9:00 - 9:30 AM

WELCOME REMARKS AND MEETING 3 RECAP

Chris Lowery, Commissioner, Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education

9:30 - 9:45 AM

BREAK

9:45 - 10:15 AM

CLOSING EQUITY GAPS IN POSTSECONDARY ACCESS

In Indiana, Hispanic or Latino students are some of the fastest growing student demographics. However, students of color, students from low-income households, male students, and rural students are some of the least likely to attend college. In order to meet postsecondary attainment goals and ensure success for all Hoosiers, these equity gaps in postsecondary education must be closed. This session will feature discussions from resource experts regarding the current state of equity in the Indiana postsecondary landscape and promising practices and programs.

MODERATOR

Claire Fiddian-Green, President & CEO | Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation

RESOURCE EXPERTS

Brianna Morse, Director of Youth Initiatives & Field Support | Indiana Department of Workforce Development

@bcarvinmorse

Dr. Joe Zachery Jr., Director, "Derica Rice and Robin Nelson Rice" College Prep Institute | Center For Leadership Development, Inc.

10:15 - 11:15 AM

BREAKOUT AND REFLECTION SESSION

Members will break into small groups to discuss what policies Indiana can implement to close equity gaps in access to 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

Claire Fiddian-Green, President & CEO | Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation

@CFiddianG

11:15 - 12:15 PM

LUNCH

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12:15 – 12:45 PM

TAKING STEPS TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN THE COLLEGE-GOING PROCESS

Along with the affordability barriers, many students fail to enroll in postsecondary education and finish their programs due to a lack of guidance and support, also known as social capital. Applying for and enrolling in higher education is a difficult process. There is a tremendous amount of information to synthesize in order to determine which school fits a student best, and how to afford the cost of tuition. In particular, the lack of access to social capital creates barriers to enrollment in postsecondary education in a variety of ways. Actions by the state and community leaders to decrease the cost of attendance and eliminate affordability barriers are insufficient if access to social capital is not addressed.

MODERATOR

Dr. Marlena Everett, Director of Higher Education | The Hunt Institute
 @Hunt_Institute

RESOURCE EXPERTS

Chad Addie, Assistant Superintendent of College and Workforce Readiness | GEAR UP South Bend!
 @ChadAddie

Troy Byler, Director, Advance College Project | Indiana University Bloomington
 @IUBloomington

Letise Jenkins, President | Indiana TRIO

12:45 – 1:45 PM

BREAKOUT SESSION

Members will break into small groups to discuss ideas to implement policies to improve student engagement in the college enrollment process at Indiana Higher Education Institutions. 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. Marlena Everett, Director of Higher Education | The Hunt Institute
 @Hunt_Institute

1:45 – 2:00 PM

CLOSING REMARKS

Chris Lowery, Commissioner | Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education



RESOURCE EXPERTS



@ChadAddie

Chad Addie

Assistant Superintendent of College and Workforce Readiness | GEAR UP South Bend!

Chad Addie, South Bend Community Schools Assistant Superintendent of College and Workforce Readiness, seeks transformational change through system-wide career pathway and dual credit program development. In 2021, the U.S. Department of Education awarded Chad's team with a 7 year, \$13.2 million federal GEAR UP partnership grant to benefit students in their postsecondary college and workforce journeys. Subsequently, the GEAR UP South Bend! team was selected to enter testimony regarding program success into the 2023 congressional record (U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate DOL/HHS/EDUCATION subcommittees).



@IUBloomington

Troy Byler

Director, Advance College Project | Indiana University Bloomington

Troy Byler is the director of the Advance College Project (ACP) since January 2020. Previously the Senior Lecturer and Outreach Coordinator for Germanic Studies Department at IUB. He graduated from Northridge High School in Middlebury, Indiana.



@CFiddianG

Claire Fiddian-Green

President & CEO | Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation

Claire J. Fiddian-Green is President & CEO of the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation, a private foundation awarding grants in Indianapolis, Indiana. She serves on the board of directors for numerous community organizations, including Central Indiana Corporate Partnership, the Indy Chamber, Regenstrief Institute, the Economic Club of Indiana, and the Mitch Daniels Leadership Foundation. She also co-chairs the Learning and Talent Opportunities Taskforce of Business Equity for Indy, a joint initiative of the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership and the Indy Chamber, in partnership with the Indianapolis Urban League, focused on addressing racial inequities in Central Indiana.



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Letise Jenkins

President | Indiana TRIO

Letise Jenkins is a life-long resident of Northwest Indiana and a 1996 graduate of East Chicago Central High School. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Ball State University (2000) and holds an MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University (2011) and a master’s in project management from Keller Graduate School of Management (2013). Letise is an Alumni of the TRIO: Educational Talent Search Program and a proud member of Indiana TRIO’s inaugural cohort for the MILE program. Investing in the lives of students she has worked for the Gary Community School Corporation and the TRIO department at Ivy Tech Community College Lake County as a Grant Project Specialist for Educational Talent Search and an Academic Counselor for Student Support Services. An advocate for education and student success, she is the current Director of the TRIO: Educational Talent Search program at Purdue Northwest.



Brianna Morse

Director of Youth Initiatives & Field Support | Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Brianna Morse has served as a youth development professional for 17 years, when she began her career at the Department of Workforce Development and she now serves as DWD’s Director of Youth Initiatives overseeing the Jobs for America’s Graduates program, out-of-school youth services and WorkOne offices in southern Indiana. Brianna’s education includes a degree in Communication from Purdue University and MS from the University of Indianapolis, where she studied Leadership and Organizational Design. In 2023, Brianna was elected to the Jobs for America’s Graduates National Board of Directors.

@bcarvinmorse



Dr. Joe Zachery Jr.

Director, “Derica Rice and Robin Nelson Rice” College Prep Institute | Center For Leadership Development, Inc.

Joe N. Zachery, Jr., J.D., is an experienced education administrator with over 18 years of experience in K-12 and higher education. He has both worked in the classroom and developed, implemented and managed scholarship opportunities, educational programs and supportive services. He has significant experience in the field of student success (preparing, recruiting, and supporting students to graduate from college in 4 to 6 years).



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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.





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](#) >



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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