



INDIANA COMMISSION *for*
HIGHER EDUCATION

FILED

Date: December 16, 2025

DEC 16 2025

Name of Agency or Office: Indiana Commission for Higher Education

INDIANA STATE
ETHICS COMMISSION

Name of Recipient: Michelle Ashcraft, Ph.D.

Title of Recipient: Senior Associate Commissioner & Chief Operating Officer

Brief Description of Item Solicited, Accepted, or Received and approximate value of item: Complimentary registration to the Indiana Work-Based Learning Conference, including its Impact Award Luncheon, on January 27, 2026. The advertised price for non-profit attendees to the full conference, including luncheon, is \$199. The event is hosted by the Indiana Institute for Workforce Excellence, a nonprofit arm of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce.

Date of Receipt: January 27, 2026

Name of Donor: Indiana Institute for Workforce Excellence (Indiana Chamber of Commerce)

Donor's Address: 115 W Washington Street, Suite 850S, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Nature of Business Relationship with Agency: The Indiana Commission for Higher Education serves as a passthrough fiscal agent for a biennial budget (HEA1001—2025) line item of \$250,000/\$250,000 to the Institute for Workforce Excellence. This General Fund appropriation supports the work-based learning program EARN Indiana ('Work and Learn Indiana'), formerly branded as 'Indiana INTERNnet,' for both college and high school students. As a statutory fiscal agent for the line item, the Commission has a contract with the Institute handled and signed by agency finance staff, not Dr. Ashcraft. The Commission has a contract with the Institute through June 20, 2026 for the implementation of 'Talent Pipeline Management' for the Office of Career and Technical Education (CTE). Dr. Ashcraft is not directly involved in that project; she did not sign the contract. However, the Office of CTE's team leader does report to her.

State Why Acceptance is in the Public Interest: The Commission, and wider Education Vertical, has a longstanding partnership with the nonprofit Institute to drive career advising and exploration through employer-led work-based and experiential learning. This annual, statewide event convenes stakeholders from across education, philanthropy, government, and industry to highlight best practices, recent accomplishments, ongoing projects, and planned initiatives. Dr. Ashcraft's attendance will inform and advance the Commission's statutory responsibilities on multiple fronts, such as industry-aligned experiential learning, postsecondary preparation, and career coaching. The policy and collaborative work of the agency will benefit from attending.

Matt Butler
Ethics Officer
Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer
Indiana Commission for Higher Education

12/16/2025

Date