



INDIANA *for* COMMISSION
HIGHER EDUCATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, July 5, 2011

MEDIA CONTACT: Sara Hess

317.464.4400 x. 139

Higher Education Commission Names New Chair, Forms Committees

The coordinating agency for Indiana's higher education system today announced new officer appointments and internal restructuring around four standing board committees. Ken Sendelweck, president of private banking and wealth management for German American Bancorp, Inc. based in Jasper, Ind., will serve as the new chair of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education.

"I am very excited to serve as chairperson of the Commission and facilitate a positive collaboration amongst all the stakeholders of higher education in Indiana," said Sendelweck. "The focus of our *Reaching Higher* strategic directions roadmap over the last four years has been improving academic quality and overall student success, with the cornerstones built upon degree completion and college affordability. While much progress has been made, tremendous opportunities remain and we all look forward to further evolving our strategic directions this fall."

Sendelweck previously served as the Commission's vice chair. That role is now filled by Marilyn Moran-Townsend, Chairman and CEO of CVC Communications in Fort Wayne. Jud Fisher, who manages the Ball Brothers Foundation in Muncie, will remain in his position as Secretary.

In conjunction with new officer appointments, the Commission has formed four new standing committees, including an Executive Committee led by Sendelweck, designed to inform and guide the efforts of the agency moving forward.

The Commission's other working groups include an Academic Affairs Committee chaired by former IUPUI Chancellor Gerald Bepko, a Budget & Fiscal Policy Committee chaired by exiting Commission chair and former Anthem, Inc. CFO Michael Smith and a Student Success Committee headed up by Dennis Bland, president of the Center for Leadership Development in Indianapolis. The new committees will serve a pivotal role in shaping an updated version of the Commission's *Reaching Higher* strategic initiatives in the months ahead.

In a related action, Gov. Mitch Daniels recently appointed Indiana businessman Christopher LaMothe to a four-year term as an at-large member of the Commission. LaMothe currently serves as Chairman and CEO of Sherry Laboratories in Daleville, Ind., a diversified testing company with laboratories in four states. Among his accomplishments, LaMothe's tenure as president and CEO of Indiana Chamber of Commerce from 1992 to 2002 included overseeing the development of Economic Vision 2010, the Chamber's long-range economic development plan for Indiana.

-MORE-

“Chris brings a fresh perspective and wealth of experience to the Commission, and we look forward to his leadership in helping to strengthen the ties between our higher education system and Indiana’s workforce,” said Sendelweck.

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education is a fourteen-member public body created in 1971 to plan and to coordinate Indiana's state-supported system of colleges and universities. Learn more at www.che.in.gov.