

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday October 9, 2009

DISCUSSION ITEM B: National and State Trends in Associate Degree Production

Staff Recommendation For discussion only.

Background In approving *Reaching Higher: Strategic Directions for Higher Education in Indiana*, the Commission highlighted and reaffirmed the need to achieve greater system efficiency, through expansion of the community college sector, and to increase student success, especially by higher degree completion rates. One consequence of these strategic directions is to have more associate degrees conferred by Indiana's community colleges, both in absolute terms and relative to the four-year sector.

When the decision was made in 1999 to create a comprehensive community college system, Indiana occupied an almost unique position in the nation, in that about one-half of all associate degrees conferred were attributed to the four-year sector. This agenda item is intended to take stock of what has happened in Indiana in recent years and in the context of national trends, regarding associate degree production. Given the strategic directions embraced in *Reaching Higher*, Commission staff believes this report would be instructive. This will help to assess where Indiana stands today and what might be expected in coming years.

Supporting Document *National and State Trends in Associate Degree Production* (to be distributed)