



INDIANA COMMISSION  
HIGHER *for* EDUCATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
Friday, January 13, 2012

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Jason Bearce  
317.464.4400 x. 119  
[jasonb@che.in.gov](mailto:jasonb@che.in.gov)

## **Indiana receives national grant to improve college readiness, student success**

Hoosier students will have a better understanding of what it means to be college-ready as a result of Indiana's participation in the new Core to College initiative. Indiana joins nine other states in the three-year grant program designed to increase college readiness and graduation rates through improved alignment between K-12 and higher education.

"We often remind ourselves that the important education reforms taking place today are not designed simply to get more students to graduate from high school," said Indiana Higher Education Commissioner Teresa Lubbers, whose agency will lead the state's Core to College efforts in collaboration with the Indiana Department of Education. "Indiana's K-12 and higher education communities must embrace the shared responsibility of ensuring that our students have the knowledge and skills required to complete college and compete in the workplace."

The Core to College work is intended to support the implementation and use of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and assessments. Desired outcomes include a statewide definition of college readiness, postsecondary use of common assessments for college placement decisions, and academic alignment across the K-12 and higher education sectors.

"Indiana is committed to ensuring that every student is college and career ready", said Dr. Tony Bennett, Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction. "Our students face a global and competitive 21<sup>st</sup> century world and every tool we can use to better prepare them must be used. This initiative completely aligns with our goals and we look forward to collaborating with the Commission for Higher Education"

Indiana, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Oregon and Washington will each receive \$200,000 per year for three years from Rockefeller Philanthropy. Grantee states were selected based on geographic diversity, assessment consortia membership, and demonstrated capacity to undertake this work, including existing collaborations and project plans aligned with the goals of Core to College.

To coordinate Indiana's grant efforts, Trish Wlodarczyk with the Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL) at the University of Indianapolis has been named the state's Core to College Alignment Director. In this role, Wlodarczyk will be responsible for overseeing Indiana's alignment plan and coordinating related activities. Prior to joining CELL as coordinator of Indiana's New Tech High School Network, Wlodarczyk oversaw the implementation of the Indiana Department of Education's high school End-of-Course Assessments.

**-MORE-**

Funding for Core to College is provided by the Lumina Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The partners developed Core to College with the assistance of Education First Consulting, which will provide continuing project management. Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, the program's fiscal sponsor, is responsible for grant decisions and all aspects of ongoing grant administration.

**-30-**