

MEDIA CONTACT:

Charlee Beasor

317-232-1016

CBeasor@che.in.gov

For Immediate Release: Thursday, June 26, 2019

## Over 300 Indiana High Schools Honored for Student FAFSA Completion Rates

Additional Schools Recognized for Participation in Scholar Success Program

(INDIANAPOLIS) – Just two years ago, the <u>Indiana Commission for Higher Education</u> tasked Indiana high schools with achieving a goal of having at least 70 percent of their students file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on or before the annual April 15 deadline.

Yesterday, the Commission, along with the Indiana Department of Education and INvestED, honored 334 Indiana high schools for meeting or exceeding that goal during a third annual celebration event at the Indiana Statehouse. Last year, 130 schools were honored for hitting the target.

Additionally, 203 high schools were highlighted for meeting another goal set by the Commission: having 70 percent of graduating seniors complete the <u>Scholar Success Program</u>, a requirement for all 21st Century Scholars prior to graduating high school.

Even more notable, 191 high schools accomplished the 70 percent completion goal in both measurements of on-time FAFSA filing and the Scholar Success Program.

"On-time completion of both the FAFSA and Scholar Success Program is critical for Scholars to take advantage of the program," said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers. "The schools we are celebrating this year are setting an example by ensuring more Hoosier students are prepared for the future."

Hoosier students and families can turn to several financial aid and grant program options in Indiana, including 21st Century Scholars, the Adult Student Grant, the Workforce Ready Grant, and financial aid for military and public safety officers, teachers and more. Find a full listing of the state's financial aid options <a href="here">here</a>.

Alongside the high schools, 12 community partners were recognized for contributing to the schools' success rates including community foundations, non-profit organizations, individuals, and colleges and universities.

You can view the full list of honorees <u>here</u>, and photos taken at the ceremony <u>here</u>.

## **About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education**

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education is a 14-member public body created in 1971 to define the missions of Indiana's colleges and universities, plan and coordinate the state's postsecondary education system, and ensure that Indiana's higher education system is aligned to meet the needs of students and the state. The Commission includes representatives from each Congressional district, three at-large members, a college faculty representative and a college student representative. Learn more about the Commission's *Reaching Higher, Delivering Value* strategic plan at <a href="https://www.in.gov/che/">www.in.gov/che/</a>.

## **Learn More Indiana**

Learn More Indiana is a partnership of state and local organizations working to help Hoosiers of all ages complete education and training beyond high school. To view a variety of college- and career-readiness resources, visit <a href="https://learnmoreindiana.org/">https://learnmoreindiana.org/</a>.