REACHING HIGHER

Strategic Initiatives for Higher Education in Indiana

THE REALITY:

To thrive as a state and as individuals, all Hoosiers will need to achieve a depth and breadth of education never seen in the state's history.

Economic

- The U.S. ranks 10th among industrialized nations in college completion rates – down from first.
- Indiana ranks 40th in the nation in the average personal income of its residents.
- Manufacturing employment in Indiana has dropped by 35 percent since 2000.
- Nearly two-thirds of all new jobs require at least some postsecondary education.

Preparation

- A quarter of all recent high school graduates need remediation when they enter a public college.
- More than two-thirds of community college students require remediation.
- Less than 10 percent of Hoosier college students who are placed in remedial courses graduate on time.

Affordability

- Indiana college tuition and fees have grown by nearly 300 percent since 1990.
- Indiana's college debt load ranks 15th highest in the country.
- Nearly two-thirds of Hoosiers graduate with college debt — and those who do not graduate are 10 times more likely to default on their college loans.

Completion

- Only a third of college freshmen earn a degree on-time. Just over half graduate within six years.
- Indiana ranks 42nd in the nation in the proportion of adults with a postsecondary credential.
- Indiana must produce at least 10,000 more Bachelor's degrees each year and increase Associate degrees by 50 percent to keep pace with the world.

For every

100 Indiana 9th Graders

82 graduate from high school

52 students enter college

35 are still enrolled sophomore year

26 graduate within six years

INDIANA COMMISSION *for* HIGHER EDUCATION

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

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In June 2007, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education unanimously adopted *Reaching Higher: Strategic Directions for Indiana*. Developed through research and discussions with Indiana's higher education, legislative, business and community leaders, *Reaching Higher* outlines a set of aspirations and specific goals that, taken together, will ensure that Indiana has the higher education system it needs and its citizens deserve.

In June 2008, the Commission approved *Reaching Higher: Strategic Initiatives for Higher Education in Indiana*, which translated the goals detailed in *Strategic Directions* into action items in six key areas:

- **Moving from college access to degree success**
- **Preparing K-12 teachers, school leaders and students for college success**
- **Ensuring that college is affordable**
- **Focusing the role of the community colleges**
- **Strengthening Indiana's major research universities**
- **Embracing accountability**

THE RESPONSE:

Indiana will…

Preparation

- Increase the proportion of Indiana high school graduates earning Core 40 with Academic (or Technical) Honors to 50 percent by 2015.
- Reduce the level of remediation provided at four-year college campuses to not more than 10 percent of students by 2015.

Affordability

- Rank as the most affordable among peer states by 2015.
- Rank in the top 10 states for low-income student college participation by 2015.

Completion

- Produce the equivalent of 10,000 additional Bachelor's degrees per year through 2025.
- Increase the number of Associate degrees and certificates earned and transferred to four-year colleges by 50 percent by 2015.
- Rank in the top 10 states at each point of the education pipeline by 2015.
- Rank in the top 10 states for on-time and minority graduation rates by 2015.

Economic

- Rank as the most productive (degree production, efficiency) among the Lumina Foundation for Education's productivity-grant states by 2015.
- Rank in the top half of all Midwestern states in research and development by 2015.

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