

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday, March 14, 2013

DECISION ITEM A:

Resolution to Close the Achievement Gap

Background

Closing the achievement gap is critical for raising the standard of living of Hoosiers as well as meeting the 60 percent goal. This resolution sets the goal of closing the achievement gap in completion rates by 2025 and lays out specific actions that the Commission and institutions should do to meet this goal.

Resolution Setting Goal for Closing the Achievement Gap in Higher Education

March 14, 2013

WHEREAS, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (“Commission”) has set a goal that 60 percent of the adult population hold a post-secondary degree or high-quality workforce credential by the year 2025;

WHEREAS, the current attainment rates are 34 percent for the white adult population, 24 percent for the African American population, and 18 percent for the Latino population¹;

WHEREAS, meeting the 60 percent goal will increase per capita income by over \$1,800 and increase state revenue by \$1.5 billion;

WHEREAS, college graduates earn \$1 million more than high school graduates over the course of a lifetime;

WHEREAS, the disparity between attainment rates results in disparities in the economic welfare of Hoosiers;

WHEREAS, increasing the attainment rate must be done both by increasing the rate at which minority students go to college as well as the rate at which they complete a degree;

WHEREAS, the most recent six-year completion rates are 59 percent for the white student population, 34 percent for the African American student population and 53 percent for the Latino student population, while the four-year completion rates are 40 percent for the white student population, 16 percent for the African American student population and 35 percent for the Latino student population²;

WHEREAS, Indiana’s post-secondary institutions can simultaneously increase the standard of living for minority populations and make progress toward the 60 percent goal by closing the gap in completion rates (“achievement gap”);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

- I. The Commission hereby sets a goal that the achievement gap in Indiana be cut in half by the year 2018 and eliminated by 2025;
- II. The Commission will annually publish the matriculation rates for various demographic groups as part of the College Readiness Reports and will also annually publish the completion rates for these demographic groups as part of a College Completion Report; and
- III. The Commission will request that Indiana’s higher education institutions set targets for closing disparities in completion rates for minority populations and report those to the Commission for comparison against progress reported in the College Completion Report.

¹ A Stronger Nation for Higher Education, to be released April 2013

² IPEDS