

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday, May 9, 2013

DECISION ITEM H:

Resource Development and Implementation Support for Indiana's 21st Century Scholars Program

Staff Recommendation

That the Commission for Higher Education authorize staff to contract for supplemental services to support the development and implementation of resources that equip 21st Century Scholars to meet new Scholar Success Programming requirements.

Background

Established in 1990, Indiana's 21st Century Scholars program has become a national model for increasing student aspirations for and access to education beyond high school. Scholars currently graduate from high school and attend college at a higher rate than Hoosier students overall. Despite this progress, Scholars are falling short of their potential in a key area: college completion. Just over 1 in 10 Scholars graduate from college on time and less than a third earn a degree within six years.

In response to this challenge, the Commission for Higher Education has established a new set of Scholar Success Program requirements designed to increase the college preparation and completion rates of Scholars. Expected of all Scholars moving forward as part of the Scholar Pledge, these requirements take effect beginning with Scholars who start high school in fall 2013.

To better serve the growing numbers of Scholars across the state and to support the increased emphasis on college success, the Scholar program is transitioning to a new support model focused on expanding partnerships and coordination with local schools and community-based organizations to help eligible students enroll in the Scholars program, complete the required Scholar Success Program activities and persist to the completion of a college degree.

These efforts will be supplemented by the development and implementation of a robust communication strategy and related print- and web-based resources that:

- 1) **Awareness:** Inform Scholars and their families of the new program expectations, requirements and related resources;
- 2) **Preparation:** Increase the percentage of Scholars who complete Scholar Success Program activities; and
- 3) **Engagement:** Engages local school- and community-based partners in supporting Scholars through high school graduation and college completion.

Supporting Documents

To be distributed.