



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, 25, 2018

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Kate Stuard

309-533-2206

[kstuard@che.in.gov](mailto:kstuard@che.in.gov)

## **DEADLINE APPROACHES FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SCHOLARS ENROLLMENT**

Indiana seventh and eighth grade students still have time to apply for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars program by the 2018 deadline of **Saturday, June 30**. The statewide financial aid program provides up to four years of undergraduate tuition and fees for eligible low-income students at any participating college or university in Indiana.

Currently, over 100,000 Hoosier students – seventh grade through college – are enrolled in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars program. Since its creation in 1990, the program has helped over 40,000 low-income Hoosier students afford college and earn degrees.

“The 21st Century Scholars program represents a significant ongoing commitment to ensure that every Hoosier student has access to the opportunities a college degree provides,” said Indiana Commissioner of Higher Education Teresa Lubbers.

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education recently released its [2018 College Readiness Report](#), which found that 82 percent of Scholars go directly to college after completing high school, compared to only 61 percent of non-Scholars. Additionally, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars are outperforming other low-income students in college.

“We have seen the success of the 21st Century Scholars program in lifting college aspirations and preparing more students for college completion,” said Lubbers. “We need to make certain that all eligible students take advantage of this opportunity and meet the enrollment deadline.”

To qualify for the scholarship, Hoosier students must apply during their seventh or eighth grade year of middle school. Throughout high school, Scholars are expected to maintain academic success by earning a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, remain drug and alcohol free, and complete a series of college-preparation activities called the Scholars Success Program. June 30, 2018 is also the deadline for recently graduated Scholars to complete their Scholar Success Program requirements before college.

Learn more about the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars program and enroll online at [www.Scholars.IN.gov/enroll](http://www.Scholars.IN.gov/enroll).

###

### **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.

### **Indiana’s 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Program**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars program was established in 1990 to increase students’ aspirations for and access to higher education. The program provides income-eligible students the opportunity to earn a scholarship that

covers up to four years of tuition and regularly assessed fees. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars supports eligible students and parents with the tools they need to prepare for college, graduate on time and begin a successful career. The scholarship is awarded on an annual basis. Learn more at [www.scholars.in.gov](http://www.scholars.in.gov).