



**INDIANA COMMISSION** *for*  
**HIGHER EDUCATION**

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## **Commissioner Lubbers Delivers Annual State of Higher Education Address**

### *Supporting pathways for high school graduates and returning adults*

Indiana's Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers delivered her annual State of Higher Education address today. The focus was supporting pathways for high school graduates and returning adults.

During her address, Lubbers discussed educational pathways for every student, highlighted the importance of lifelong learning and introduced a new higher education compact – including hints about the Commission's 2020 strategic plan.

#### **Educational Pathways for Every Student**

"There are multiple educational pathways to a good job. At the same time we bring adults back, we must ensure that young Hoosiers graduate from high school prepared for the world of work and higher education."

"Personalization means the needs of the individual learner should drive the delivery system, whether that's the 18 year old college freshman or the 35 year old returning adult. A one-size-fits-all system is not what these students expect or deserve any more than patients want an old system of health care that fails to provide options or embrace technological advances."

#### **The Importance of Lifelong Learning**

"The truth is – and we must be clear about this message – it's possible, but increasingly rare that a high school diploma will be adequate or a lifetime credential. While some high school graduates may be prepared to go into the job market directly from high school, the key word is "prepared." A high school diploma coupled with an industry certification or workforce credential can jumpstart a career, but it is likely to be the beginning of job preparation – not the end."

"Likewise, more and more adults will return to higher education – even if they have a degree – to advance their careers in light of changing job requirements. One of the fastest growing areas on many campuses is executive and continuing education for alums and others who need to gain new credentials. Pop-up or mini courses are being offered to teach a specific skill or new technology in a condensed time frame."

#### **A New Higher Education Compact**

"There is little doubt disruption is underway and must be met with a new higher education compact: one that provides more people with affordable and flexible learning options while preserving quality and advancing economic opportunity."

"This year the Commission is undertaking strategic planning, which will result in an updated blueprint for Indiana's higher education system: one that addresses demographic and enrollment patterns, financial pressures, new providers and ways of learning, quality assurance, workforce needs, and technology and automation disruptions – all with an eye to return on investment for students and the state."

Lubbers also highlighted a few key takeaways from the Commission's latest [College Readiness Report](#), which was released last week. Among the report's findings:

- **Remediation rates are dramatically down:** 12% of 2017 high school graduates needed remediation when entering college compared to 28% of high school graduates in 2012.
- **More students are earning college credit in high school:** 62% of Hoosier students earned Advanced Placement (AP) or dual credit in 2017 compared to 47% in 2012 – a 15 percentage point increase in just four years. Additionally, dual credit courses save students and families an estimated \$69 million dollars in tuition costs.
- **21st Century Scholars are seeing improvement:** While racial, ethnic and income gaps remain, 21st Century Scholars are seeing double-digit improvement in college access, persistence and completion. First generation students who are not Scholars are not experiencing similar levels of success.

To read the full 2019 State of Higher Education Address, [click here](#).

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#### **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 [www.in.gov/che/](http://www.in.gov/che/).