Indiana’s Priorities

• **Close Achievement & Completion Gaps.** In 2013, the Commission passed a resolution to close achievement gaps by 2025. In 2018, Indiana released its first College Equity report, highlighting disparities for key populations in college-going rates, persistence and completion—and marking progress in closing those gaps by campus.

• **Smooth the Transition Between High School and Postsecondary Completion.** More than 64% of Indiana students earn early college credit through AP or dual credit. Work is underway now to redesign the state’s CTE dual credit offerings to create true programs of study and encourage more high school students to complete high school with a 30-credit-hour State General Education Transfer Core or Technical Certificate.

• **Support Indiana’s 21st Century Scholars.** As the 21st Century Scholars program approaches its 30-year anniversary, data show that Scholars are gaining ground by every measure compared to their low-income peers— and go to college at a higher rate than all students. The Commission continues to develop the program to support student success with required activities in high school and, soon, college to ensure more Scholars earn their degrees.

• **Target Adult Learners.** The Commission is renewing its effort to reach adults with some college but no degree through the “You Can. Go Back.” program to encourage more people to go back and finish what they started. Combined with the Next Level Jobs workforce ready grant, Indiana now offers adults a wider range of options to earn a postsecondary credential and improve their lives.

• **Align Workforce Funding & Programs.** Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers chairs the Governor’s Workforce Cabinet, which is focused on aligning funding and programs to meet workforce needs.

**2019 Legislative Session Summary**

• **Higher Education Funding:** Increased overall higher education funding by 1% and 2.5% over the next two years, continued commitment to performance funding for institutions, and sustained financial aid funding ($350M) for both high school graduates and returning adults.

• **Workforce Certificates:** Doubled funding to support Indiana’s Next Level Jobs workforce ready grant, which provides tuition-free certificates in high demand industries for recent high school graduates and adults.

• **Internships:** Expanded eligibility for the state’s EARN Indiana Program, which provides funding to encourage internships for low-income students, to include high school students as well as college students.

• **FAFSA:** Required high schools to notify parents about the importance of completing a FAFSA and to share information with the Indiana Commission for Higher Education to help target better outreach and communications.

• **Math Transitions:** Funded a pilot for a new Math Transitions course for high school seniors who need additional support to enter college-level math courses without remediation.

• **Dual Credit:** Reestablished the Dual Credit Advisory Council to recommend strategies to ensure dual credit teachers meet accreditation standards and to examine the ways dual credit can continue to make college completion a more affordable goal for Indiana students.

• **Teacher Residency:** Created a pilot program in which the Commission will award grants to schools that partner with colleges to start teacher residency programs.