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State Higher Education Commission Welcomes Three New Members

Nancy Jordan, Tom Saunders and Mike Daigle join 14-member coordinating board

(INDIANAPOLIS) – Three Hoosiers have been appointed to the [Indiana Commission for Higher Education](https://www.in.gov/che/), as recently announced by Governor Eric J. Holcomb.

The 14-person higher education coordinating board is comprised of one faculty member, one student member, a representative from each of the state’s nine congressional districts and three at-large members. The new members represent the 2nd and 3rd congressional districts, as well as an at-large member.

Nancy Jordan, CPA of Fort Wayne represents the 3rd congressional district. Jordan is a former senior vice president at Lincoln Financial Group. In January 2020, she joined Bulldog Consulting Services as a senior consultant, providing executive expertise for the insurance industry and other business clients. Prior to joining Bulldog, Jordan stepped down from her role at Lincoln Financial Group to serve on Gov. Eric J. Holcomb’s Next Level Teacher Compensation Commission.

Active in community affairs, Jordan serves on the Indiana State Museum Foundation Board and the AWS Foundation Board. Her service includes the boards of the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership, Greater Fort Wayne Inc. and she is past president of the Allen County-Fort Wayne Capital Improvement Board.

Jordan holds a bachelor’s degree from Purdue University Fort Wayne and was named Outstanding Alumni by The Doermer School of Business.

“Lifelong learning is important for all Hoosiers, and I am excited about the Commission’s initiatives to help students understand the variety of available post-high school opportunities and financial aid programs that help them find meaningful and high-paying work without having to leave the state,” Jordan said.

Jordan’s term will run through June 30, 2026.



Nancy Jordan

Rep. Tom Saunders (R-Lewisville) is one of the Commission’s new at-large members. Rep. Saunders has served as State Representative of District 54 since 1996. He is vice chair of the Statutory Committee on Interstate and International Cooperation and a member of the Local Government and Roads and Transportation House Committees. This is his last year in the General Assembly before retirement.

During his tenure in the General Assembly, Rep. Saunders worked to bring an Ivy Tech campus to downtown New Castle to improve the local community by bringing in additional traffic and revenue, while also providing high school graduates with more opportunities.

In 2014, he was recognized as Legislator of the Year by the Indiana Conservation Alliance for his leadership in creating the Sustainable Natural Resource Task Force. In 2009, Rep. Saunders received the Distinguished Public Service Award from the Indiana Department of the American Legion. The award is the Legion's highest honor.

"This is an exciting time for me to join the Indiana Commission for Higher Education and continue my public service on behalf of our great state," said Rep. Saunders. "I look forward to working with fellow Commission members, our agency partners, and our state's public and independent colleges in order to meet the needs of students and Indiana."

Rep. Saunders' term will run through June 30, 2026.



Tom Saunders

Mike Daigle of South Bend is representing Indiana's 2nd congressional district. Daigle joined South Bend International Airport (SBN) in 2012 as CEO and Executive Director. With 45 years of aviation experience, he is an accredited member of the American Association of Airport Executives, the largest professional organization for airport employees.

Daigle began his aviation career in the U.S. Army as an airplane mechanic. He went on to serve as a helicopter pilot, flight instructor and flight examiner. He spent his last assignment in the Army flying Blackhawk helicopters and serving as the Airfield Commander at Ft. Carson, Colorado.

Prior to leading SBN, Daigle served as the deputy executive director at Capital Region International Airport in Lansing, Michigan. He has also previously served on the Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission and the Judicial Qualifications Commission. Daigle holds a Master of Arts in organizational management and a bachelor's degree in aviation.

"I am honored to have been recommended to serve on the Indiana Commission for Higher Education as appointed by Governor Holcomb," said Daigle. "I believe higher education is at the foundation of economic development. I will work to ensure a strong foundation is in place for generations to come to make Indiana a place our graduates want to remain."

Daigle's term will run through June 30, 2026.

See the full list of Commission members at che.in.gov.



Mike Daigle

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About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Created in 1971, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education plans, coordinates and defines Indiana's postsecondary education system to align higher learning with the needs of students and the state. The Commission also administers Indiana's financial aid programs, including the [21st Century Scholars](#) early college promise scholarship, which celebrated 30 years in 2020. Learn more about the Commission's [Reaching Higher in a State of Change](#) strategic plan at www.in.gov/che.