



INDIANA COMMISSION *for*
HIGHER EDUCATION

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Higher Education Commissioner Applauds Governor's Priorities, Including \$184 Million in Additional Funding for Higher Education and Support for the 21st Century Scholarship

(INDIANAPOLIS) – Following Governor Eric J. Holcomb's 2023 State of the State address and the release of his Next Level Agenda, [Indiana Higher Education Commissioner](#) Chris Lowery commends the Governor's priorities heading into the Legislative session, including \$184 million in additional funding for higher education in Indiana over the biennium.

"Governor Holcomb's ambitious agenda is forward-thinking and exemplary of the type of environment we should be creating – one that promotes economic and social mobility and prosperity for Hoosiers, employers and the state. Higher education is integral to the state's economic priorities and the Governor today clearly set the tone by announcing an historic request for \$184 million in additional funding for higher education," said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery.

"Additionally, the Governor's Next Level Agenda priorities are inextricably linked. Focusing on the whole Hoosier will lead to a stronger workforce. The benefits of greater levels of education and training range from more wealth to longer life expectancy. Investment in these areas by the legislature will make Indiana more competitive and better able to meet workforce needs, grow economic development and provide opportunity for Hoosiers for decades to come."

"The Commission is also thrilled to receive Governor Holcomb's support for simplifying the enrollment process for income-eligible students into the 21st Century Scholars program. This nationally recognized, early college promise program helps set up Indiana's students for success throughout high school and in college and has helped over 50,000 Hoosiers earn a degree or credential since the program's creation in 1990. Removing the barrier to enrollment for students and families is one small but meaningful step the state can take to ensure low-income Hoosiers can seek and attain greater levels of education, which leads to better outcomes for students and the state. Over a lifetime, the extra economic impact of 21st Century Scholars is nearly 10 times the cost of the Scholars program."

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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.