



INDIANA COMMISSION *for*
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEDIA CONTACT:

Allison Kuehr at (317) 232-1016 or akuehr@che.in.gov

Cara Short at (317) 232-1032 or cshort@che.in.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday, March 30, 2023

H. Kent Weldon Conference will take place on April 3 at Marriott Indianapolis North

(INDIANAPOLIS) – The [Indiana Commission for Higher Education](#) will host its 2023 H. Kent Weldon Conference for Higher Education on Monday, April 3 at the Marriott Indianapolis North. The focus of the conference will be on successful programs that address educational access and student success.

The [H. Kent Weldon Conference](#) is an annual convening of Indiana students, educators, and business and government leaders to share and discuss ideas that impact higher education and workforce development within the state. The keynote will feature Morgan Torres, Director of the Veterans Success Center at Purdue University West Lafayette. Breakout sessions and lunch will follow the keynote discussion.

Who: Indiana Commission for Higher Education

What: H. Kent Weldon Conference

When: Monday, April 3, 2023; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. ET

Where: Marriott Indianapolis North
3645 River Crossing Parkway
Indianapolis, IN 46240

Additionally, the Commission will announce the recipient and finalist of the [Gerald Bepko Faculty Community Engagement Award](#) at the conference. The award was established in 2019 to honor the legacy of Dr. Gerald “Jerry” Bepko and his decades of service to Indiana University and the Commission for Higher Education.

2023 Gerald Bepko Faculty Community Engagement Award Finalist

Dr. Jason Ware, *Purdue University West Lafayette*

Dr. Ware is a clinical associate professor at the Purdue University John Martinson Honors College. His teaching focuses on providing service-learning opportunities for students through undergraduate research and community engagement. His teaching has provided pathways for students to impact the city of Lafayette, IN, more specifically, the Lincoln neighborhood.

Dr. Ware exemplifies what it means to engage with communities in meaningful ways that impact the greater good of the state of Indiana.



Dr. Jason Ware

2023 Gerald Bepko Faculty Community Engagement Award Winner

Dr. Kiesha Warren-Gordon, *Ball State University*

Dr. Warren-Gordon is a professor of criminal justice and criminology at Ball State University. Through student-driven teaching, she provides students with opportunities to partner with their communities. Particularly, her focus on marginalized communities has created a ripple effect throughout the Ball State and Muncie communities.

Dr. Warren-Gordon’s work demonstrates the student-centered, mission-driven and future-focused work that supports the Commission’s core principles for higher education in Indiana.

View the full conference agenda [here](#).



Dr. Kiesha Warren-Gordon

###

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.