



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

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## **Shoals High School Named a 2024 School of Excellence by ACT's American College Application Campaign**

*The Southern Indiana-based high school is one of 26 schools in the country recognized for its commitment to postsecondary student success*

**(INDIANAPOLIS)** – The [Indiana Commission for Higher Education](https://che.in.gov) today announced that Shoals High School as Indiana's American College Application Campaign (ACAC) [School of Excellence Award](#) winner. Indiana joins 25 other states in celebrating exemplary schools dedicated to increasing postsecondary success, specifically for students from low-income backgrounds.

Awardees are selected based on their participation in their state's college application campaign. The high school's 45-student senior class filled out a combined 85 college applications during the campaign. During fall 2024, students from Shoals elementary, middle, and high schools, with a total student body of over 650, participated in Indiana's College GO! Week activities each day and received information about 529 Savings Plans for their parents.

"The Commission congratulates Shoals High School on this incredible accomplishment," Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery said. "Our state needs partners like Shoals to encourage students to pursue their postsecondary plans so we can promote economic and social prosperity for all Hoosiers. Thank you to the educators, counselors, and administrators at Shoals for your exemplary participation in this year's initiative."

"We are honored to receive the School of Excellence Award at Shoals High School," Early College Director Megan Hawkins said. "We are blessed to have staff who provide resources, guidance, and love for students for their college and career ambitions. We are proud to continue to empower students as they take the next steps toward their futures; as it is the students who empower and motivate us."

[College Application Week](#) is part of Indiana's annual College GO! initiative. Taking place every August through November, College GO! provides Hoosier K-12 students with information and resources to support their exploration of postsecondary education options. This was Indiana's 11th year participating in the initiative, with 32 Indiana colleges and universities waiving college application fees.

"There's something that's so rewarding about seeing our state coordinators take part in helping students navigate the admission process," ACAC Director Lisa King said. "Students feel more confident and empowered to apply to college, and thanks to initiatives like the American College Application Campaign, it all serves as a reminder of the impact we can have."

To learn more about Indiana's College GO! program, visit [Learn More Indiana's website](#).

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### **About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education**

Created in 1971, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE, Commission) is the State's coordinating agency,

driven to improve economic and social mobility for fellow Hoosiers through higher education. The Commission's [HOPE \(Hoosier Opportunities & Possibilities through Education\) Agenda](#) serves as the agency's strategic plan and mission through 2030, providing seven goals around enrollment, completion, and graduate retention efforts. The Commission also administers Indiana's state financial aid programs, including [21st Century Scholars](#), which celebrates 35 years in 2025.