

**Resolution to Improve the Access and Success of Working Adults
in Indiana’s System of Higher Education**

May 19, 2014

WHEREAS, traditional students who enter college directly from high school and live on campus represent only 1/4 of college students today;

WHEREAS, for Indiana to meet its 60 percent attainment goal, even more working adults must return to higher education and successfully complete a degree;

WHEREAS, non-traditional students must balance family and work obligations with their higher education pursuits and often choose to attend part-time;

WHEREAS, part-time students are 6 times less likely to complete a bachelor's degree and 1.5 times less likely to complete an associate degree, even after allowing extra time;

WHEREAS, the commission's regional campus policy revised the mission of regional, commuter campuses, stating that “the goal should be to enable as many students as possible, including those with work and family obligations, to complete a full-time course load and graduate on-time”;

WHEREAS, Indiana colleges have created alternate calendars, block schedules and supplemental academic support that have dramatically increased success rates of adult students, but only within select programs or schools;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

- I. The Commission will study the academic and financial needs of working adults pursuing higher education and publish recommendations for use of state and institutional resources in support of the success of this population by November 1, 2014.
- II. The Commission calls on Indiana employers to encourage and support its employees in their higher education pursuits.
- III. The Commission calls on Indiana colleges and universities, particularly those serving adult students, to implement success strategies for this population by May 9, 2014, taking these strategies to scale by 2016.