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## Indiana creates student 'value index' while support builds for a federal student data system

Submitted by Andrew Kreighbaum on October 11, 2016 - 3:00am

As tuition prices and student loan debt weigh on the minds of students, they're paying more attention to the payoff from specific majors or degree programs. But the College Scorecard, the consumer tool the U.S. Department of Education introduced last year, reports only outcomes for a particular college overall and for those students who receive federal financial aid.

That's because of a ban enacted by the U.S. Congress on a federal student-level data system [1]. So students are left with a broad view of institutions' results where data is available.

"When the data you collect and use focuses on schools instead of students, then you can't answer some pretty basic questions about the value of higher education," said Tom Allison, policy and research director for the Young Invincibles, a think tank focused on young people.

When the group called recently [2] for the federal ban's repeal, it came amid a changing political landscape. Multiple higher education associations have come around on the idea, and a number of prominent conservative Republicans have expressed interest in more transparency on student results in higher education.

In the absence of quick movement to repeal the prohibition, however, states and universities are moving forward with their own workarounds to the ban to track student outcomes.

In Indiana, the Commission on Higher Education last month launched the Indiana College Value Index [3]. The state got help from USA Funds and Gallup to release a set of metrics that takes into account both quantitative and qualitative measures.

The index doesn't rank Indiana's colleges and universities. Instead, it aims to provide students and families with information on completion, postgraduation salary and satisfaction of university graduates.

Teresa Lubbers, who leads the commission, said Indiana already has explored performance-based funding in public institutions. The rising cost of college in recent years has contributed to discussions about the value of higher education, she said.

"People are asking, 'Are you funding things that matter to the individual and to the state?'" Lubbers said. "In order to [answer] that, you have to have data, you have to have metrics you're aiming for

and you have to publish them.”

# INDIANA COLLEGE VALUE INDEX



COLLEGES	COMPLETION WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY?		COMPETENCY WHAT THE ALUMNI SAY?		CAREER WHAT THE COLLEGE DOES?	
	PERCENTAGE MAJORS THAT EARN ABOVE STATE MEDIAN SALARY		PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYED ALUMNI WHO SAY THEY ARE FULFILLED IN THEIR CURRENT WORK		HELPED MAJORITY OF ALUMNI FIND THEIR FIRST JOB AFTER GRADUATION	REQUIRES MAJORITY OF STUDENTS TO GAIN WORKPLACE EXPERIENCE
	After 1 Year	After 10 Years	Recent Alumni	All Alumni	(Y/N)	(Y/N)
Ball State University	39%	98%	19%	30%	N	Y
Indiana State University	37%	98%	?	?	?	Y
IPFW	41%	100%	23%	32%	N	Y
IU Bloomington	21%	100%	?	?	?	N
IU East	20%	89%	27%	29%	N	N
IU Kokomo	25%	89%	28%	29%	N	N
IU Northwest	43%	100%	?	?	?	N
IU South Bend	27%	100%	?	?	?	N
IU Southeast	40%	100%	?	?	?	N
IUPUI	55%	98%	?	?	?	N
Ivy Tech Community College	53%	94%	25%	N/A	N	Y
Purdue Calumet	46%	100%	?	?	?	Y
Purdue North Central	43%	100%	?	?	?	Y
Purdue West Lafayette	49%	99%	15%	23%	N/A	N
University of Southern Indiana	29%	100%	?	?	?	Y
Vincennes University	25%	72%	35%	35%	N	N
<b>State</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Farther south, the University of Texas System last month announced <sup>[4]</sup> a partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau to track the postgraduation outcomes of alumni who have moved across the country. Development of that program began in 2012, after the system's Board of Regents received recommendations from a student debt task force.

Stephanie Huie, vice chancellor for the system's Office of Strategic Initiatives, said UT currently tracks postgraduation outcomes for students who reside in Texas by sharing information with the state workforce commission. But the system can't calculate employment rates or wage data for graduates who move outside of the state. And the College Scorecard, which collects data on students who have received financial aid, reflects only 43 percent of the system's graduate population, she said.

“That isn't the fault of the Department of Education,” she said. “They're doing the best they can. They don't have all the data they would like to have access to.”

Huie said the partnership with the Census Bureau, which is a pilot project for the agency, could demonstrate the value of matching student-level data with information on earnings for all UT alumni, no matter what state they live in. The data would help the system better inform students at its campuses while also finding programs that could be improved and providing more resources in the state appropriations process.

## Republicans and the Higher Education Lobby

In the last two years, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators have come out in favor of some kind of federal student-level data system.

House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin is among a number of Republican leaders who now support legislation to add transparency in higher education, along with prominent Democrats like Senator Patty Murray of Washington. But the House education committee itself -- where any legislation on a repeal would originate -- remains a major obstacle to hopes for movement on the issue. Only one Republican committee member, Representative Joe Heck of Nevada, has come out in favor of removing the ban. And Heck is running for Harry Reid's Senate seat, so he will either be in the upper chamber or out of Congress entirely next year.

The likely next chair of the committee, North Carolina Republican Virginia Foxx, remains steadfast in her opposition to a federal student-level data system. Foxx, who sponsored the ban in 2008, said the privacy concerns that motivated the ban remain as significant as ever.

"When Congress prohibited the creation of a federal database to collect personally identifiable information on individual college students, it was respecting the deep concerns that Americans have about government intrusion into their private lives," she said in a written statement. "Today, those concerns are as relevant as ever. It's apparent there is also a need to provide more accountability in the higher education system. As we continue to discuss reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, we will work to protect the privacy of students and ensure strong accountability."

That position is supported by the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, which represents more than 1,000 private nonprofit institutions and is the last serious holdout among major higher education associations on a student unit record ban.

Amy Laitinen, director for higher education at New America, wrote in a [2014 report](#) <sup>[5]</sup> that NAICU has exercised an outsize influence in blocking a possible repeal.

"They've historically been the problem and they continue to be the problem," she said.

Laitinen said other higher education associations are no longer on the sidelines on the issue because they've seen that it is in their interest to make sure data featured in tools like the College Scorecard are accurate. While she sees reason for optimism in the new interest of Republican leadership in pushing for transparency, she said NAICU still holds sway among GOP committee members.

"The committee really sees the associations as their constituents," she said. "They should look at the students as their constituents. It's classic regulatory capture."

Sarah Flanagan, NAICU's vice president for government relations and policy development, said it is misleading to suggest that the association is the only source of motivated opposition to a student-level data system.

"There is a federal ban because members of Congress advocated for a federal ban," Flanagan said. "If Congress changed its mind, the ban would be removed."

She said proponents of a repeal still have yet to seriously address the privacy concerns that originally motivated the ban. Laitinen, for her part, said the data in question are already being collected at the state level or by federal agencies and are just not being shared in a useful manner.

The Association of Big Ten Students was one of several student organizations that contributed feedback to the Young Invincibles' data reform agenda. But the group has been active on the repeal of the student unit record ban going back several years, meeting with members and congressional staffers each spring.

"It's something that is on people's radar," said William Dammann, a University of Minnesota Twin Cities senior who serves as the association's legislative director. "It's interesting, because when you talk to people about the idea behind [the repeal], they say, 'Well, I don't get it. Why aren't we getting this information? It doesn't make sense.'"

Mark Schneider, vice president and institute fellow at the American Institutes for Research, said advocates of a repeal would have more success politically if they dropped the term "student unit record."

"The problem is the term is toxic," he said. "You use any of those three words and people on the Hill, many staffers and representatives, just go crazy."

Schneider said advocates should talk about student-level data systems instead, of which there are multiple examples. He pointed to the efforts at the UT system and in other states -- he helps lead a company working on data systems in Colorado and Tennessee -- as evidence of momentum for making student data more widely available.

But those programs, even when they account for all students, provide only outcomes on students from a particular state. And the College Scorecard, which is based on federal aid data, only accounts for students who have received aid.

"Right now we're just doing all kinds of workarounds because of the fact that many student-level data systems exist," Schneider said. "They're all workarounds, right? And that's the problem."

[Assessment and Accountability](#) <sup>[6]</sup>

[The Policy Environment](#) <sup>[7]</sup>

**Source URL:** <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/10/11/indiana-creates-student-value-index-while-support-builds-federal-student-data-system?width=775&height=500&iframe=true>

**Links:**

[1] <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2013/05/13/political-winds-shift-federal-unit-records-database-how-much>

[2] <https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2016/10/05/report-urges-overturn-student-unit-record-ban>

[3] <http://www.learnmoreindiana.org/indiana-college-value-index/>

[4] <http://www.utsystem.edu/news/2016/09/22/ut-system-partners-us-census-bureau-provide-salary-and-jobs-data-ut-graduates-across>

[5] <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/03/11/new-america-report-takes-aim-private-college-lobby-student-unit-record-system>

[6] [https://www.insidehighered.com/news/focus/assessment\\_and\\_accountability](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/focus/assessment_and_accountability)

[7] <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/news-sections/policy-environment>

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## Indiana College Value Index – Clips Report



### [Indiana College Value Index unveiled on Wednesday](#)

September 21, 2016

On Wednesday the Indiana College Value Index was unveiled.

The index is a statewide and campus-by-campus measure of the benefits and outcomes of post-secondary education.

“We are the first state to measure college value in a way that goes beyond the numbers to show not just how well our campuses are doing but also how they can do better,” Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers said. “The Indiana College Value Index does this by bringing together both quantitative and qualitative information, providing a more complete view of higher education performance and value.”

The Indiana College Value Index provides college value profiles for all Indiana public college campuses, focusing on three areas aligned to the state’s strategic plan for higher education, called Reaching Higher, Delivering Value: Completion, Competency and Career. The index combines quantitative data from the Commission’s College Completion Report and Return on Investment Report with qualitative information from the Gallup-Indiana Alumni Survey as well as examples provided by the colleges.

### **Statewide Highlights**

- Indiana outperforms and outpaces the nation on key measures of college value. Indiana college graduates report higher levels of well-being compared to national averages in all surveyed categories. Indiana outperforms the national average for on-time completion by over two percentage points as well as for extended (six-year) completion by nearly five percentage points. Finally, Indiana college students are less likely to take out student loans than their peers (61 percent in Indiana compared to 69 percent nationally).
- College pays financially and increases overall well-being. Within five years, graduates from over 85 percent of degree programs typically earn salaries that exceed the state median (\$32,500). Furthermore, more than half of Indiana college graduates indicate they are “thriving” in four out of five measures of well-being: purpose, community, financial and social. (Physical well-being tested the lowest, with over half of graduates indicating they were “struggling.”)
- Student choices and engagement matter more than where they attend college. Regardless of where students go to college, the data show that short-term and long-term satisfaction and return on investment are more closely tied to what students choose to study, course load, and use of campus resources.
- Students who receive support on campus are almost twice as likely to say strongly agree that their higher education was worth the cost—even if they have student loan debt. This is a clear area for

potential improvement on Indiana campuses. Less than half of Indiana graduates report having support outside the classroom to graduate or to find an internship or job. Only 22 percent report having a professor or mentor who cared about them, made them excited about learning, and encouraged them to pursue their goals.

For more information, check out this [link](#).



### [State launches College Value Index](#)

Date: September 21, 2016

By: Alex Brown

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education, along with Indianapolis-based USA Funds and the Indiana Youth Institute, have launched what they're calling the nation's first comprehensive measure of college value. The Indiana College Value Index features profiles for all of Indiana's public colleges and universities.

The state says each institution's profile focuses on three main areas: completion, competency and career. The index includes data from the commission's College Completion Report and Return on Investment Report, as well as information gathered from the Gallup-Indiana Alumni Survey and information provided by the colleges.

"We are the first state to measure college value in a way that goes beyond the numbers to show not just how well our campuses are doing but also how they can do better," said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers. "The Indiana College Value Index does this by bringing together both quantitative and qualitative information, providing a more complete view of higher education performance and value."

USA Funds Executive Vice President Carol D'Amico says it is vital for students to have access to the necessary information in order to make well-informed decisions about where they want to go to college.

Some metrics are still under development and some campus value profiles do not include information on graduate satisfaction and experiences due to some colleges not participating in the Gallup-Indiana Survey. The commission says its goal is to have complete information for all campuses and partner over the next year with the Indiana Youth institute to gain input about the index in order to improve it.

You can learn more about the Indiana College Value Index by [clicking here](#).



[Report: Purdue students graduate quicker, earn more](#)

Date: September 21, 2016

By: Meghan Holden

Purdue University's West Lafayette campus fares well when stacked up against statewide universities.

The state on Wednesday unveiled an online tool — the Indiana College Value Index — that gives a comprehensive look into the performance of Indiana's colleges. It aligns with Indiana's strategic plan to close the college completion achievement gap and arm 60 percent of Hoosiers with a post-secondary education by 2025.

The index includes profiles of every public university and outlines student graduation rates, competency and career outlook. It was created by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education with support from Indianapolis-based nonprofit USA Funds.

"We believe it's the first of its kind in this nation," said Teresa Lubbers, Indiana commissioner for higher education.

The tool's purpose is to help prospective students make a better informed decision when they're choosing which college and major is best for them, she said.

The results paint a good picture of the state's higher education. Indiana college graduates report higher levels of well-being compared to the national average. They also complete school on time at a slightly higher rate and are less likely to take out students loans.

"There's a lot of good news here," Lubbers said.

Purdue's main campus saw especially positive feedback.

More than half of all students graduate within four years, compared to less than one-third of all Indiana students, according to Indiana Commission for Higher Education data.

Nearly all program majors working in Indiana earn above the median state salary, which hit \$32,500 in 2015, ten years after graduation. In fact, their median salary reached almost \$57,000.

That's about \$13,000 more than the salary of Indiana University East graduates, the lowest earning group in the index.

"We have a lot to be very proud of," said Frank Dooley, Purdue's vice provost for teaching and learning.

Purdue students typically start out in a good place in terms of college readiness, he said, which sets them up for success.

"It's easy to teach most of the students we have floating around this campus," Dooley said.

Although the university performed well in most areas, less than 10 percent of West Lafayette alumni said they received high levels of support while in school, according to data included in the index from

the Gallup-Purdue Index Survey. In comparison, 22 percent of Indiana alumni said they had high support in a Gallup-Indiana Survey.

But Dooley said recent efforts to help students succeed should boost that number in the future. He referenced, for example, the "Purdue Promise" program that aims to guide 21st Century Scholar students through college by giving them a success coach.

"Our sense is that this has made a big difference for students," Dooley said.

He said Purdue will use the index in the future to review how they compare with other universities.

"We're obviously very interested in the notion of our students doing well," Dooley said.



### [State launches new online tool to help Hoosiers make informed college choice](#)

Date: September 21, 2016

By: Dan Carden

Prospective college students, and their parents, have a new tool to gauge the best value among Indiana public universities.

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education on Wednesday launched its College Value Index, which makes comparative data on completion rates, student debt, academic effectiveness and career satisfaction available at the click of a mouse.

"We think that at a time when we're telling Hoosiers that education beyond high school is more important than ever, we need to make sure that we provide the right kind of information to help them make good decisions about where they go to college and what they study," Commissioner Teresa Lubbers said.

Lubbers said the free tool — available online at [in.gov/che](http://in.gov/che) — uses state data and college alumni survey responses to answer three key questions all prospective students have: Will I learn what I need to know? Will I graduate? Will I find fulfilling employment?

The index does not rank schools based on their results, she said. Rather, it gathers typically disparate data and presents it in a single format and in one place to guide students toward an informed college choice.

"We are the first state to measure college value in a way that goes beyond the numbers to show not just how well our campuses are doing but also how they can do better," Lubbers said.

Region schools listed on the index include Purdue University Northwest, with separate entries for its former Calumet and North Central campuses; Indiana University Northwest and Ivy Tech Community College.

The data show that while the on-time and extended-time graduation rates of those schools are below the state average and student debt is nearly at or above other state universities, almost every student who graduates from PNW, IUN or Ivy Tech will earn more than the state's median salary within a decade.

Lubbers said she hopes to add private universities and for-profit institutions operating in Indiana to the index in coming years.



### [State unveils “College Value Index”](#)

Date: September 21, 2016

By: Abdul Hakim-Shabazz

State officials unveiled today their “College Value Index” for Indiana schools, a statewide and campus-by-campus measure of the benefits and outcomes of post-secondary education.

The Indiana College Value Index provides college value profiles for all Indiana public college campuses, focusing on three areas aligned to the state’s strategic plan for higher education, called [Reaching Higher, Delivering Value](#): Completion, Competency and Career. The index combines quantitative data from the Commission’s College Completion Report and Return on Investment Report with qualitative information from the Gallup-Indiana Alumni Survey as well as examples provided by the colleges.

The Indiana College Value Index was developed by the Commission with support from USA Funds. In addition to providing financial assistance for the Gallup-Indiana Survey, USA Funds offered useful feedback and a shared commitment to giving students, families and educators straightforward, practical tools they can use to make well-informed decisions about post-secondary education.

Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers, USA Funds Executive Vice President Carol D’Amico and Indiana Youth Institute President and CEO Tami Silverman today spoke to the media about the program.



## [New College Index shows financial, career data for Indiana colleges](#)

Date: September 21, 2016

By: Eric Berman

A new database on Indiana's public universities shows where you're most likely to graduate, and how much you'll earn afterward.

The Commission for Higher Education has posted a "College Value Index" with data on Indiana's state schools, including breakouts of all 11 IU and Purdue campuses. The numbers include both objective measures like cost and graduation rates, and surveys asking alumni whether they feel they got enough career help at school, and whether they feel fulfilled now.

Higher education commissioner Teresa Lubbers says the index is a resource for students, parents, and counselors as they weigh the return on investment from a college education.

Just three of the 16 campuses listed have on-time graduation rates above the national average. But those three are three of the state's five largest -- Ball State and the main campuses of IU and Purdue -- which lifts the state average a few points above the national average.

The school with the state's largest enrollment, Ivy Tech, also has the lowest graduation rate. But half the majors offered at the school lead to jobs earning the state median salary fresh out of college.

The index is posted online at [learnmoreindiana.org](http://learnmoreindiana.org).



## [Commission for High Education releases "College Value Index"](#)

Date: September 21, 2016

By: Saige Driver

A new database on Indiana's public universities is making it easier for high school students to learn about potential colleges.

[The Commission for Higher Education](#) posted a "College Value Index." The index has data on Indiana's state schools, including breakouts of Indiana University and Purdue University campuses.

The numbers include objective measures like cost and graduation rates. It also has surveys asking alumni whether they feel they got enough help at school and if they feel fulfilled now.

Just three of the 16 campuses listed have on-time graduation rates above the national average. You can see the full report below.

Your Town. Your Voice.

# News~Sentinel.com

[Commission releases state college rankings](#)

Date: September 21, 2016

The Indiana Commission for College Education released the nation's first comprehensive measure of college value on Wednesday, centering on a variety of data including graduation statistics, student advising and support and feedback from alumni.

The report - which laid out numbers from 16 state universities based on data sourced through the National Student Clearinghouse and the National Center for Education Statistics - finds that Indiana outperforms the nation in several areas. On average, 31.3 percent of graduates from the universities examined graduate on time, compared to 29 percent nationwide. Locally, this includes 13.0 percent at IPFW compared to a state-high 62.7 percent at Indiana and 52.1 percent at Purdue.

IPFW ranks mid-pack in regards to overall students graduating at 40.5 percent, with Indiana (83.2 percent) and Purdue (82.7 percent) leading the state.

The University of Notre Dame is not included in this study.

For more information, including the complete report, visit [www.learnmoreindiana.org/indiana-college-value-index/](http://www.learnmoreindiana.org/indiana-college-value-index/).



[Indiana launches nation's first comprehensive measure of college value](#)

Date: September 21, 2016

Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers, USA Funds Executive Vice President Carol D'Amico and Indiana Youth Institute President and CEO Tami Silverman today unveiled the Indiana College Value Index — a statewide and campus-by-campus measure of the benefits and outcomes of postsecondary education.

“We are the first state to measure college value in a way that goes beyond the numbers to show not just how well our campuses are doing but also how they can do better,” Lubbers said. “The Indiana College Value Index does this by bringing together both quantitative and qualitative information, providing a more complete view of higher education performance and value.”

The Indiana College Value Index provides college value profiles for all Indiana public college campuses, focusing on three areas aligned to the state’s strategic plan for higher education, called Reaching Higher, Delivering Value: Completion, Competency and Career. The index combines quantitative data from the Commission’s College Completion Report and Return on Investment Report with qualitative information from the Gallup-Indiana Alumni Survey as well as examples provided by the colleges.

The Indiana College Value Index was developed by the Commission with support from USA Funds. In addition to providing financial assistance for the Gallup-Indiana Survey, USA Funds offered useful feedback and a shared commitment to giving students, families and educators straightforward, practical tools they can use to make well-informed decisions about postsecondary education.

“It is vital that students across Indiana have access to the information they need to make well-informed decisions about their educational paths,” said D’Amico. “The Indiana College Value Index will provide students the insights to choose a major and an institution that will prepare them with the skills and knowledge needed for a successful, rewarding career after graduation.”

### Statewide Highlights

Indiana outperforms and outpaces the nation on key measures of college value. Indiana college graduates report higher levels of well-being compared to national averages in all surveyed categories. Indiana outperforms the national average for on-time completion by over two percentage points as well as for extended (six-year) completion by nearly five percentage points. Finally, Indiana college students are less likely to take out student loans than their peers (61 percent in Indiana compared to 69 percent nationally).

College pays financially and increases overall well-being. Within five years, graduates from over 85 percent of degree programs typically earn salaries that exceed the state median (\$32,500). Furthermore, more than half of Indiana college graduates indicate they are “thriving” in four out of five measures of well-being: purpose, community, financial and social. (Physical well-being tested the lowest, with over half of graduates indicating they were “struggling.”)

Student choices and engagement matter more than where they attend college. Regardless of where students go to college, the data show that short-term and long-term satisfaction and return on investment are more closely tied to what students choose to study, course load, and use of campus resources.

Students who receive support on campus are almost twice as likely to say strongly agree that their higher education was worth the cost—even if they have student loan debt. This is a clear area for potential improvement on Indiana campuses. Less than half of Indiana graduates report having support outside the classroom to graduate or to find an internship or job. Only 22 percent report having a professor or mentor who cared about them, made them excited about learning, and encouraged them to pursue their goals.

### About the 2016 Indiana College Value Index

The Indiana College Value Index includes the following interactive and printable resources to inform students and families, secondary and postsecondary educators, policymakers and state leaders, and business and community stakeholders:

In this first year, the Indiana College Value Index does not include extensive Competency metrics for the statewide interactive dashboard or the value profile, as these measures are still under development. Additionally, some campus value profiles do not include information on graduate satisfaction and experiences, because not all colleges chose to participate in the Gallup-Indiana Survey. In the years ahead, the Commission aims to have complete information for all campuses.

Furthermore, the Commission will partner with the Indiana Youth Institute to begin a year-long effort to gain input from education, community, business and policy stakeholders to identify ways to improve, share and use the Indiana College Value Index as a critical tool in postsecondary planning.

“Anyone working toward the college experience may be overwhelmed with questions surrounding the process,” says Tami Silverman, president and CEO of the Indiana Youth Institute. “The Indiana College Value Index examines three of the biggest questions families, students and counselors may face: how likely is a student to graduate? Will that student learn what he or she needs to know while at that college? And how likely is a student to find fulfilling employment after graduation? After all, the goal of any college degree is to find a meaningful career, while also providing a good return on your investment.”

The Commission will use the Indiana College Value Index to measure the state’s progress achieving the goals outlined in Reaching Higher, Delivering Value, Indiana’s updated strategic plan for higher education. Learn more about the plan and the Indiana College Value Index at [www.che.in.gov](http://www.che.in.gov).

For more resources, information and support about preparing for and selecting the right college and program of study, visit [www.LearnMoreIndiana.org](http://www.LearnMoreIndiana.org), Indiana’s web resource on preparing for college and careers.



### [Indiana launches college value website](#)

Date: September 21, 2016

A website has been launched that’s intended to help people make informed decisions about pursuing higher education in Indiana.

The [Indiana College Value Index](#) provides information compiled from all Indiana public college campuses with measurements of the benefits and outcomes of pursuing a degree at each institution.

“We are the first state to measure college value in a way that goes beyond the numbers to show not just how well our campuses are doing but also how they can do better,” Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers said. “The Indiana College Value Index does this by bringing together both quantitative and qualitative information, providing a more complete view of higher education performance and value.”

The Indiana College Value Index focuses on three areas aligned to the state’s strategic plan for higher education, called Reaching Higher, Delivering Value: Completion, Competency and Career. The index combines quantitative data from the Commission’s College Completion Report and Return on Investment Report with qualitative information from the Gallup-Indiana Alumni Survey as well as examples provided by the colleges.

Some of the takeaways of the initiative were highlighted in a press release issued Wednesday:

- Indiana outperforms and outpaces the nation on key measures of college value. Indiana college graduates report higher levels of well-being compared to national averages in all surveyed categories. Indiana outperforms the national average for on-time completion by over two percentage points as well as for extended (six-year) completion by nearly five percentage points. Finally, Indiana college students are less likely to take out student loans than their peers (61 percent in Indiana compared to 69 percent nationally).
- College pays financially and increases overall well-being. Within five years, graduates from over 85 percent of degree programs typically earn salaries that exceed the state median (\$32,500). Furthermore, more than half of Indiana college graduates indicate they are “thriving” in four out of five measures of well-being: purpose, community, financial and social. (Physical well-being tested the lowest, with over half of graduates indicating they were “struggling.”)
- Student choices and engagement matter more than where they attend college. Regardless of where students go to college, the data show that short-term and long-term satisfaction and return on investment are more closely tied to what students choose to study, course load, and use of campus resources.
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The Commission will partner with the Indiana Youth Institute to begin a year-long effort to gain input from education, community, business and policy stakeholders to identify ways to improve, share and use the Indiana College Value Index as a critical tool in postsecondary planning.

“Anyone working toward the college experience may be overwhelmed with questions surrounding the process,” says Tami Silverman, president and CEO of the Indiana Youth Institute. “The Indiana College Value Index examines three of the biggest questions families, students and counselors may face: how likely is a student to graduate? Will that student learn what he or she needs to know while at that college? And how likely is a student to find fulfilling employment after graduation? After all, the goal of

any college degree is to find a meaningful career, while also providing a good return on your investment.”

The Commission will use the Indiana College Value Index to measure the state’s progress achieving the goals outlined in Reaching Higher, Delivering Value, Indiana’s updated strategic plan for higher education. Learn more about the plan and the Indiana College Value Index at <http://www.che.in.gov>.

**Indiana** public media



[New Indiana College Value Index intends to help students, families](#)

Date: September 22, 2016

By: Eric Weddle

The state’s Commission for Higher Education and polling organization Gallup released a new website Wednesday that tries to explain the value of attending an Indiana college.

The [Indiana College Value Index](#) doesn’t rank the 16 state-funded college and university campuses. Instead, it’s suppose to help students and their families answer questions about choosing a college, says higher education commissioner Teresa Lubbers.

“We know there are other rankings out there, U.S. News and World Report and Princeton Review, but we think for Hoosier students this provides much more information,” Lubbers says.

Information includes how long it takes to graduate at each school and survey results from students and alumni about their degree and overall experience.

Indiana’s private and non-public schools are not included yet but could change by next year.