



INDIANA COMMISSION
for
HIGHER EDUCATION

TO: Indiana Legislative Council

FROM: Teresa Lubbers, Commissioner

DATE: November 1, 2011

SUBJECT: Entrepreneurial Inventory, HEA 1006-2011

Entrepreneurship was a significant focus during the 2011 session of the Indiana General Assembly with legislation advocating for expanded entrepreneurship education, increased collaboration by state agencies promoting entrepreneurship, and additional resources to assist individuals in learning about entrepreneurship opportunities. One piece of legislation was House Enrolled Act 1006-2011, which states the following:

"The commission shall inventory the entrepreneurship programs conducted by postsecondary educational institutions in Indiana. The commission shall publish the inventory on the commission's Internet web site in a form that allows students to identify the educational opportunities that are available in the field of entrepreneurship, after consulting with the department of workforce development and the Indiana economic development corporation."

Pursuant to Indiana Code 21-18-9-6 (HEA 1006-2011, Section 6), the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE), in consultation with the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), inventoried the entrepreneurship programs provided by postsecondary educational institutions throughout Indiana. This report details the steps taken to obtain data from institutions and publish the information on the ICHE website in a generalized inventory available for prospective and current postsecondary students.

It is important to note that the current report and inventory reflects information from public and private (nonprofit) postsecondary institutions across Indiana. ICHE is working with the Indiana Commission on Proprietary Education (COPE) to identify proprietary institutions that offer entrepreneurship educational programs and plans to integrate any updated information on the inventory website and related documents.

Data Collection Process

ICHE started the process of gathering entrepreneurship program information from Indiana's postsecondary institutions during the summer of 2011 with the dissemination of a standardized request form.

The collection form requested a variety of details, including:

- Program majors and minors devoted specifically to the field of entrepreneurship. If a postsecondary institution did not offer a degree in the field of entrepreneurship, the ICHE requested information on any individual entrepreneurial classes offered.
- Specifics regarding seminars, organizations, or clubs focused on the field of entrepreneurship.
- Supplemental resources and related materials that would aid prospective and current students seeking details about entrepreneurial opportunities at postsecondary institutions in Indiana.
- Central point of contact for entrepreneurship information at the institution as well as contact information of any relevant department heads.

The data collection form was submitted to postsecondary institutions in July 2011, with the request that the information be provided in 30 days. ICHE worked with the Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI) and the Indiana Commission on Proprietary Education (COPE) to assist in the information gathering task and to identify specific contacts that would be able to respond to the data request form. The postsecondary institutions responded in diverse formats from July 2011 through September 2011. ICHE worked with several institutions to clarify responses and ensure information was formatted in a way that would allow students to learn about entrepreneurship educational opportunities in a clear and user-friendly way. ICHE created a high level summary tracking document of all postsecondary institutions as well as an individualized entrepreneurship summary information sheet for each institution.

The two major components of the inventory of entrepreneurship education programs included:

- 1) A state-level summary sheet listing all public and private institutions involved in the entrepreneurial inventory study. This sheet provides the institution name, whether or not the institution has a major, minor, or other entrepreneurial programs, and the contact information of an entrepreneurial resource at the institution. This overview sheet is a one page guide for students looking for institutions that offer degrees or programs in the area of entrepreneurship.
- 2) Institution-specific summary sheets provide consistent information related to entrepreneurial opportunities at each postsecondary institution. Information included in the individualized summary sheets includes: major(s) offered, minor(s) offered, individual courses offered, seminars offered, other programs offered, a contact person for the institution and other information or links.

Initial Findings

Initial findings from this inventory based on preliminary analysis reveal that entrepreneurship educational opportunities are prevalent across the state though offerings vary considerably between institutions and campuses:

- **System-wide:** About 44% of public and private institutions offer a degree program specifically devoted to entrepreneurship, and 81% have a program that includes an entrepreneurial aspect or programmatic component.
- **Public Institutions:** Approximately 44% of public institution campuses offer a major and/or minor in entrepreneurship. Approximately 88% of public institution campuses offer some form of entrepreneurial program to students.
- **Private Institutions:** Approximately 44% of independent non-profit institutions offer a major and/or minor in entrepreneurship and approximately 78% offer at least one entrepreneurial program. As noted previously, data related to proprietary institutions is forthcoming.

Entrepreneurial Inventory Website

Public access to the Entrepreneurial Inventory is available via the ICHE website as required in HEA 1006-2011. Below is a link to the Entrepreneurial Inventory web page, which is currently live and can be viewed by students, postsecondary institutions and other interested parties.

<http://www.in.gov/che/entrinv.htm>

The link titled “Entrepreneurial Inventory” can be found under the “Colleges and Universities” header on the CHE main website. When this link is accessed, students are directed to a web site listing all public and private postsecondary institutions included in the inventory. The names of the institutions are listed in alphabetical order under one of these two main categories. Each institution is a separate link that when selected will provide a PDF document of that institution’s summary of entrepreneurship programs and services. At the top of the website is a link to a high level summary sheet as noted earlier in the report. ICHE will update the website and inventory data periodically to reflect new information provided by Indiana’s proprietary institutions, updated information from the state’s public and private institutions, and feedback received from students and other constituents.

Conclusion

ICHE would like to thank all those postsecondary institutions that participated in the project, the DWD and IEDC for their assistance in consulting on the project, and COPE for their work to obtain information regarding proprietary institutional data. This was a collaborative effort that will allow students to learn more about entrepreneurship educational opportunities across Indiana’s postsecondary institutions and hopefully engage students in entrepreneurial careers.