

Teresa Lubbers

Commissioner

Indiana Commission for Higher Education



Teresa Lubbers was appointed in 2009 to serve as Indiana’s Commissioner for Higher Education, the coordinating agency charged with ensuring that the state’s postsecondary education system is aligned to meet the needs of students and the state. Prior to joining the Commission, Lubbers served in the Indiana State Senate for 17 years, leading on education and economic development issues as Chair of the Senate Education and Career Development Committee.

As Commissioner, Lubbers has worked to increase college completion, improve productivity, and ensure academic quality. She has partnered with policymakers and higher education leaders to implement the state’s higher education strategic plan, *Reaching Higher, Achieving More* and promoted innovative educational models and efforts to control college costs.

Lubbers served as Commissioner and Chair of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact, Commissioner for the Education Commission of the States, and as a member of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Higher Education for the National Conference of State Legislatures. She is a member of the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) and the Immediate Past Chair. She serves on the Indiana Education Roundtable and the Indiana Career Council. Lubbers holds an undergraduate degree from Indiana University and a Masters in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Dhanfu Elston, Ph.D.

Vice President

Complete College America

Dr. Dhanfu E. Elston (pronounced: dah-nee-foo) serves as Vice President for Complete College America. Over two decades of his higher education career in academic and student affairs, Elston has created and implemented comprehensive success and retention programs that have garnered national attention. He has been recognized as an expert in college completion policy initiatives at institutions that educate highly diverse and underrepresented student populations.

Prior to his current role, Dr. Elston held the position of Executive Director of Student Success and Transition at Purdue University Calumet. Under Elston’s leadership, Purdue Calumet launched many of CCA’s “Game Changers” strategies and experienced gains in first-year retention, graduation rates, and enrolled credit hours. In addition, enhancements made to campus-wide advisement processes led to the receipt of the Education Advisory Board’s inaugural Data-Driven Impact Award for utilization of predictive analytics.



Joyce Walsh-Portillo, M.B.A., Ed.D.

Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs

Broward Community College



Joyce Walsh-Portillo Joyce lived in Mexico City for twenty years and while working there, earned her MBA. Upon her return to the US, she worked as an adjunct professor in Business at Broward College for three years. In 2006, she became a tenured professor at Broward. Her work with faculty development and her management experience created a natural fit to launch and maintain a successful outcomes and assessment initiative in General Education while continuing to teach. Joyce moved into Higher Ed Administration at the College in 2009, developing a more fully integrated assessment process for all academic programs. She has served on a number of committees including Academic Standards and the Endowed Teaching Chair Awards. She earned her Ed.D. from FIU in 2011 in Higher Education

Administration. She became the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, her current position in 2013. Her areas of responsibility include: articulation and transfer, dual enrollment, credit for prior learning, curriculum services, data management for academic affairs, academic outcomes and assessment and the Honors Institute. She is the recipient of an Endowed Teaching Chair award and the NISOD award for outstanding service at a community college. Most recently she has been recruited to be one of the 12 Career Pathways Coaches, part of the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation initiative at AACC. Joyce is married and has one adult son.

Karen Laughlin, Ph.D.

Dean of Undergraduate Studies

Florida State University

Karen Laughlin, who currently serves as Dean of Undergraduate Studies at Florida State University, also holds a tenured position as Associate Professor of English. She received her B.A. from Duke University, and spent a semester of her undergraduate years in Aix-en-Provence, France on a study abroad program. After graduating, she returned to France on a Fulbright Fellowship that enabled her to teach English at a high school in Limoges. She then went to Canada and earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Laughlin came to FSU in 1982 and held a joint appointment in English and Humanities for several years. Her research and teaching interests include Modern and American Drama, women's studies, and critical theory, and she has a particular interest in the plays of Samuel Beckett. She was awarded a Teaching Incentive Award in 1994 and again in 1996. Her publications include a collection of essays on Theatre and Feminist Aesthetics and articles and book chapters on playwrights such as Bertolt Brecht, Beth Henley, Susan Glaspell, and Megan Terry as well as Beckett. Before accepting the position of Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Dr. Laughlin served as chair of several Faculty Senate Committees (including both the Undergraduate and Graduate Policy Committees) as well as President of the FSU Faculty Senate. As Dean, she is committed to ensuring that the University continues to give a high priority to undergraduate education and to helping to provide FSU's undergraduate students with the richest possible educational experience.



Susan Powers, Ed.D.

Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

Indiana State University



Dr. Susan M. Powers holds an Ed.D. in Instructional Technology from the University of Virginia. She is a tenured professor in the Bayh College of Education at Indiana State University where she has also served as a department chair, Associate Dean of Education, and currently holds the position of Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. In Dr. Powers' current capacity as Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs at Indiana State University, she facilitates curriculum, faculty evaluation, student issues, reporting to state organizations, and implementation of various strategic initiatives. She has served as NCATE coordinator and co-coordinator of the university's regional accreditation effort (NCA/HLC). Dr. Powers has served as an evaluation consultant for several learning technology grants with K-12 school corporation and higher education institutions, and has served as a PI for over \$1.5 million in grants. She is involved in a number of student success initiatives at ISU, including the Sycamore Graduation Guarantee program which initiated the implementation of DegreeWorks and degree maps in 2012. She is the co-

author of *Technology and Teacher Education: A Guide for Educators*, 5 book chapters, and numerous journal articles, conference proceedings, and conference presentations.

Jenna Cullinane, Ph.D.

Strategic Policy Lead, Higher Education

Charles A. Dana Center

Jenna Cullinane serves as strategic policy lead for higher education initiatives at the Center. She works primarily on policy, evaluation, and scaling for the New Mathways Project. This initiative aims to increase successful student transitions to college through developmental mathematics curricular redesign, enhanced student support services, coordinated state and institutional policy change, and continuous institutional improvement. Jenna manages the Transfer Champions Initiative and the development of higher education issue briefs at the Center. She provides technical assistance related to transfer policy and college-readiness policy, produces tools and resources for colleges and policymakers, and collaborates with national and state partners.

Jenna created a process and tools to support statewide mathematics task forces, which are used by faculty working groups in Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, and Ohio as well as the Houston region of Texas. Previously, Jenna was special assistant to the president at the Institute for Higher Education Policy, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving access and equity in higher education. She was a summer associate at Deloitte and Touche and as a research assistant at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. She also served previously as research scientist, graduate research assistant, and teaching assistant at The University of Texas at Austin. She earned her Ph.D. in Public Policy at the LBJ School of Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Austin.



Ken Sauer, Ph.D.

*Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer
Indiana Commission for Higher Education*



As Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer at the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, **Dr. Ken Sauer's** responsibilities include: academic strategic planning, policy development, and program approvals; working with the legislature; transfer of credit; and leading a statewide electronic transcript initiative. He also serves as Executive Director of the Indiana Board for Proprietary Education and is one of the three gubernatorial appointees from Indiana who serve on the governing board of the twelve-state Midwest Higher Education Compact.

Ken is one of the founding members and leaders of the thirteen-state Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit, which includes all twelve MHEC states plus Kentucky. He also chairs the Data Management Committee of the SHEEO-AAC&U Multi-State Collaborative To Advance Learning Outcomes Assessment. His previous employment includes working for the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS). While at NCHEMS, he provided leadership for the contract with NCES that resulted in development of the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes. He holds a bachelor's degree from St. John Fisher College and a Ph.D. in Government/International Relations from the Claremont Graduate School.

Jeffrey X. Watt, Ph.D.

*The Marvin L. Bittinger Chair of Mathematics Education
Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Outreach
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis*

Jeffrey X. Watt holds a Ph.D. in Mathematics Education from Indiana University. He is a tenured professor at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). Beginning his career at IUPUI in 1990, Watt has been acknowledged for his commitment to higher education through various honors and awards, most recently recognized as the US Professor of the Year Award for Indiana by the Carnegie Foundation - CASE (2010). He is the co-author of more than ten publications in STEM education and in 2013 was recognized as the Marvin L. Bittinger Chair of Mathematics Education. He currently serves as the Associate Chair of the Department of Mathematical Sciences and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Students and Outreach at IUPUI. He is also a University College Founding Faculty Member. Previously, Watt served as President for University College Faculty and Vice-President for the IUPUI Faculty Council among other roles.



Carrie McCammon

*Associate Professor of Mathematics and Program Chair
Ivy Tech Community College*



Mrs. Carrie McCammon is the Math Program Chair and Associate Professor of Mathematics at Ivy Tech Community College, Wabash Valley Region. She serves as Math Pathways Project Director for the Ivy Tech Community College system taking on leadership roles for the development and implementation of co-requisite remediation and new math pathways projects.

Carrie holds a Master’s degree in Mathematics Education from Indiana State University and was recently honored by the Indiana Association for Development Education for outstanding contributions to the field of development education in Indiana.

Liz Brown, Ph.D.

*Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
Indiana State University*

Dr. Elizabeth Brown is a Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. She earned a B.S. in Applied Mathematics from San Diego State University, an M.S. in Mathematics from the University of Utah, and a Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning with an emphasis in Mathematics Education from the University of Utah.

She has been a faculty member at ISU since 2000. She is interested in mathematics teacher preparation and professional development as well as mathematics curriculum development.

Dr. Brown is a 2011 recipient of the Caleb Mills Distinguished Teaching Award and serves on the Board of the Indiana Council of Teachers of Mathematics.



PANEL MODERATORS:

Sarah Ancel

*Associate Commissioner for Policy and Legislation
Indiana Commission for Higher Education*



Sarah Ancel currently serves as Associate Commissioner for Policy and Legislation for the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. In that role, she is responsible for implementing the Commission’s strategic plan by overseeing foundation-funded projects, coordinating Commission activities and developing the Commission’s legislative priorities. As an economist and policy analyst, Sarah has filled various roles within state government and contributed to reform efforts including property tax restructuring, local government transparency and student financial aid reform. Sarah also taught macroeconomics as an adjunct professor at Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis, where she had previously earned her master’s degree. Sarah resides in Indianapolis with her husband Marc and their children Evie and Jude.

Jason Bearce

*Associate Commissioner for Strategic Communications and Student Success Initiatives
Indiana Commission for Higher Education*

Jason Bearce has served as Associate Commissioner for Strategic Communications & Student Success Initiatives at the Indiana Commission for Higher Education since 2009. In that role, Bearce serves as a policy adviser to the Commissioner and directs the agency’s communication strategy, outreach efforts and student success initiatives. Bearce’s policy contributions have included overseeing the development of the Commission’s “*Reaching Higher, Achieving More*” strategic plan and spearheading reforms to Indiana’s 21st Century Scholars program in an effort to increase college completion rates for low-income Hoosier students.



Bearce previously served as staff liaison for Indiana’s Education Roundtable and held leadership positions at the Indiana Department of Education as communications director and policy adviser. Bearce holds an undergraduate degree from Purdue University and an MBA from Western Governors University.