May 2, 2025

Weekly Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education

and educator professional development opportunities are just around the corner, the end of the school year is a celebratory time and also a great opportunity to look back on our achievements.

With that in mind, this week brought two visits where we celebrated Indiana students and educators across the state, with the first happening at a school in southern Indiana...

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

<u>South Spencer School Corporation - Elementary Literacy</u> **Improvements** Rockport Elementary School and their neighbor school, Luce Elementary, have been hard at work over the past two years as members of the Literacy Cadre. South Spencer is a rural district with nearly half of their students on free and reduced lunch, and nearly all of them are reading!

Second grade teacher Mrs. Janet Schipp credited the Literacy Cadre support and science of reading training as playing a key role in her school's success to ensure students are reading. She also credited the work of her colleagues...the teachers in kindergarten and first grade who helped lay the foundations for the students in her

As we kick off May in Indiana, many schools are heading into their final weeks of the 2024-2025 school year. While summer learning, vacations,

classroom today. Statewide scores are not official yet as multiple testing opportunities remain over the summer, but our early data shows that 100% of Mrs. Schipp's second grade class, which includes special education students, passed IREAD this spring!



MSD Lawrence Township - High School Students in Apprenticeships In celebration of National Apprenticeship Day on Wednesday, MSD Lawrence Township welcomed us to their Early

Learning Center at Mary Castle Elementary to see how their high school students are engaging in the Early Childhood

Last fall, we launched this apprenticeship program with a signing day at the Statehouse where 65 students from across the state officially began their apprenticeship. At Lawrence Township, with the help of early childhood education providers right in their own district, their seniors will be better prepared for their unique future, having completed a valuable work-

Education Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program.

based learning experience and earned a credential of value prior to graduation.

From academic instruction, to physical fitness, to lunch time, apprenticeship students were engaged with energetic preschool students ready to learn, count (in both English and Spanish!), and play. Through this apprenticeship, the district is leaning into growing their own workforce, with many of the graduating students interested in returning to work in the early childhood program while in college.

Thank you to Rockport Elementary and MSD Lawrence Township for sharing some of the good work happening in your

The Indiana Purple Star School Designation honors schools that have displayed a significant commitment to service members, veterans, and students and families connected to our nation's military. The 2025 application is now open through Monday, September 8. Learn about the requirements and apply here. Contact IDOE's Office of Communications and External Affairs with

Indiana Code (IC) 20-28-11.5-9 requires a principal at each school corporation, including both charter and virtual schools, to complete an annual survey for any teacher employed who was initially licensed in Indiana during the previous two years. The purpose of the survey is not to assess the individual teacher, but the quality of preparation provided by the Indiana educator preparation program the teacher completed for licensure. A survey is not required for those who completed an out-of-state program for initial licensure. The 2025 survey can be accessed here. Select "Complete the Survey" and then enter the access code provided to you earlier this week. Summary results will be shared with educator preparation programs for program

schools! And as always, thank you to each of you for all that you do for students!

REMINDER: Indiana Purple Star School Application Now Available

Office of Educator Preparation

REMINDER: Praxis 5205 Test Guidance

REMINDER: Keys to Literacy Completion

questions.

questions.

questions.

questions.

questions.

REMINDER: School Staff Injury Reporting

REMINDER: Next Gen SIG Now Open

REMINDER: Ombudsman Office Hours

ombudsman@doe.in.gov with any questions.

 Thursday, May 8, at 10 a.m. ET • Thursday, May 15, at 10 a.m. ET Thursday, May 22, at noon ET

see the memo and plan to join one of the office hours scheduled:

Contact IDOE's <u>School Medicaid Specialist</u> with any questions.

REMINDER: Changes to Monitoring Procedures

Education monitoring team with additional questions.

Kindergarten Readiness

Learning with any questions.

Office of Digital Learning with any questions.

Office of Title Grants and Support

NEW: FFY2025/FY2025 Pre-application is Now Available

whichever is later). Please contact titlei@doe.in.gov with any questions.

NEW: TitleCon 2025 Conference Survey

NEW: 2026 Indiana Pre-Admissions Opt-In

prepared for their paths after high school graduation.

News From Our Partners

out to community@indianasportscorp.org.

Register for the Summer Institute <u>here</u>.

Thursday, August 7

colleges across the state partnered with CHE for Indiana Pre-Admissions.

<u>preadmissions@che.in.gov</u> prior to the Friday, June 20, opt-in deadline.

NEW FROM ASSET: Cohort 4 Application Now Open

help@assetindiana.org or call 317-759-2895, ext. 1 with any questions.

Development (PD)

with any questions.

REMINDER: Good Cause Exemption (GCE) Form

streamline documentation during this transition. To use the form:

<u>Learning Lab</u>. Contact IDOE's <u>Office of Digital Learning</u> with any questions.

to attend here. Contact IDOE's Office of Digital Learning with any questions.

REMINDER: Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Classroom - Spotlight Sessions

REMINDER: 2025-2026 K-12 Robotics Competition Grant Application

REMINDER: Haitian-Creole Parent Survey Available

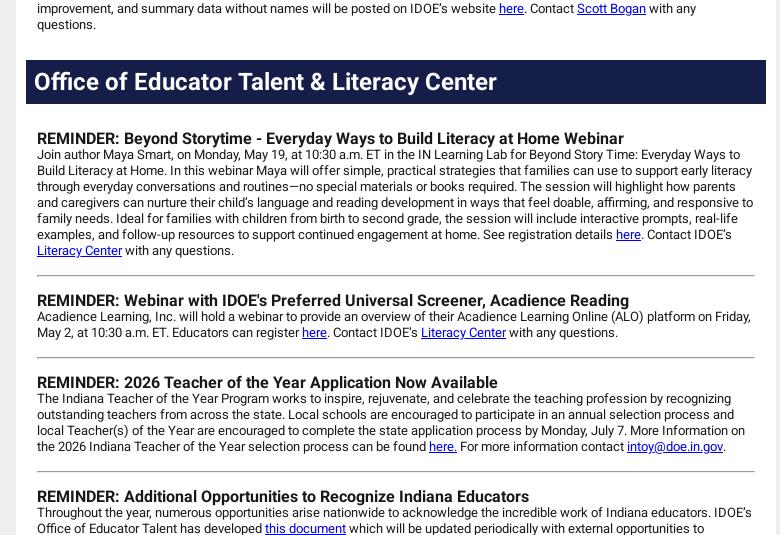
education in Indiana. Contact alchristy@doe.in.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: Special Education Directors Symposium Updates

any questions.

Office of Communications and External Affairs

REMINDER: Annual Principal Survey Regarding Initial Educator License Holders



recognize educators. To submit an educator recognition opportunity not listed, contact IDOE's Office of Educator Talent.

Educators using test vouchers (or any payment method) need to review the Registration and Essential Checklist before registering for the Praxis 5205 here. Educators using test vouchers (or any payment method) who want to use a school-owned computer to take at-home Praxis exams should review and confirm that the computer equipment and environment meet the test-at-home requirements and that network security settings will not block the test platform software. Please review the At-Home Testing Requirements to ensure the testing session will not be invalidated, thus requiring payment for another exam

IC 20-32-8.5 and 511 Indiana Administrative Code (IAC) 6.2-3.1 require schools with students enrolled in kindergarten through grade eight to submit an annual reading plan to IDOE by Monday, June 30. IDOE's Literacy Center released the 2025 annual

Educators have until Monday, June 30, to complete all asynchronous coursework through Keys to Literacy to maintain stipend eligibility. For help accessing your course, please see this PDF of directions and FAQs for Teachable. Contact Keys to Literacy with any questions regarding your online course. If you have not yet enrolled in a Keys to Literacy course, you have until Thursday, May 15, to register in order to complete by Monday, June 30, and maintain stipend eligibility. Click <u>here</u> to register.

Educators who hold an Indiana professional educator license can register here for the flexible Keys to Literacy options. Educators planning to earn Indiana's Early Literacy Endorsement can follow the process outlined here to submit a request to verify completion of the approved 80 hours and request a Praxis voucher, if needed. Contact IDOE's Literacy Center with

Additionally if you have requested a Praxis voucher, the testing date can fall after June 30, 2025, but educators must schedule their exam by Monday, June 30. Contact IDOE's Literacy Center with questions. REMINDER: Early Literacy Endorsement Professional Development (PD) & Praxis Voucher Request

REMINDER: Nominations Now Open for the 2026 RISE Classified Staff Award

REMINDER: Nominations Open for the Indiana History Teacher of the Year Award

Office of School Building Physical Security and Safety

Office of School Support and Transformation

Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities

NEW: Virtual English Learner (EL) Leadership Meeting on Thursday, May 22

NEW: 2024-2025 School Year Graduation Pathways Webinar

session. For support with Praxis, contact ETS Praxis Customer Support or 1-800-772-9476.

REMINDER: 2025-2026 Annual K-8 School Reading Plan

<u>reading plan guidance</u>. Contact IDOE's <u>Literacy Center</u> with additional questions.

IDOE's Office of Educator Talent with any questions. **REMINDER: Applications for Spanish Visiting Teacher Program** Details for the SY 2025-2026 Spanish Visiting Teacher Program can be found here, or to learn more about the responsibilities of being a host school please click here. If you were unable to attend the informational webinar you can view the recording here. Districts can express interest by completing the application form here. Contact IDOE's Office of Educator Talent with any

In partnership with IDOE, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History awards the Indiana History Teacher of the Year title each year in its effort to promote the study and love of American history. State winners are then considered for the National History Teacher of the Year award. For more information about the nomination process and to nominate an Indiana history teacher, click here. Nominations must be submitted by Wednesday, April 30. Contact IDOE's Office of Educator Talent with any

Districts, charters, and non-public schools across the state are encouraged to nominate up to two classified school employees for the Recognizing Inspiring School Employees (RISE) Award. The RISE Award honors and promotes the excellence exhibited by classified school employees who provide exemplary service to students in pre-kindergarten through high school. The deadline to submit nominations is Monday, July 7, at 5 p.m. ET. Nominations can be submitted via JotForm. Contact

REMINDER: Student Safety Reporting Pursuant to IC 20-34-6-1, corporations must report student bullying, arrests, and gang data for each school to IDOE. These submissions are now included on the DOE-ES Report (discipline report) via Data Exchange. This data collection is now open and will close Monday, June 30. Contact your school corporation's data administrator with questions about submitting this data. Learn more here and in IDOE's Knowledge Hub.

IC 20-19-3-27.5 and IC 20-26-5-42 require public schools to report certain employee injury information to IDOE if the employee is physically injured on the job by a direct action of a student. Additional details can be found in this memo. The annual data collection closes Monday, June 30. Schools will report through certified data submission via Data Exchange. Additional

guidance and instructions regarding the data submission for the 2024-2025 school year can be found in IDOE's Knowledge Hub.

Next Gen SIG is a competitive grant for school transformation. Eligibility for this grant extends to all schools currently identified as Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) and Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) under Indiana's ESSA Plan. Interested school officials can read more about the grant program in the Next Gen SIG memo. A list of eligible schools can be found here. IDOE's Office of School Support and Transformation will be accepting applications through Friday, May 30, with finalists announced mid-summer. A PDF version of the application can be found here. The scoring rubric for the application can be found here. The online application can be found here. Contact IDOE's Office of School Support and Transformation with any

REMINDER: Alternative Education New Program Proposal Deadline for 2025-2026 School Year Submissions The deadline to submit an Alternative Education New Program Proposal for operation in the 2025-2026 school year is Friday, May 30. The proposal link can be found here. The submission window for Alternative Education New Program Proposals for operation in 2026-2027 school year is Monday, September 1, 2025, through Tuesday, March 31, 2026. Contact IDOE's Alternative Education team with any questions. Office of Special Education, English Learning, and Migrant **Education**

IDOE's Office of English Learning and Migrant Education will host the next EL Leadership Meeting virtually from 10 to 11:30 a.m. ET on Thursday, May 22. This meeting is intended for Indiana K-12 EL leaders and administrators and will consist of updates and interaction on timely EL topics. Registration is not required. Visit the <u>Indiana EL Professional Development Opportunities</u>

IDOE's Equitable Services Ombudsman will host an office hours session for staff who support IDEA Part B proportionate share

Fairbanks is Indiana's new vendor providing services for the School-Based Medicaid Administrative Claiming. IDOE's Office of Special Education is co-hosting office hours with Fairbanks, the new Indiana Medicaid Administrative claiming vendor. Please

The Office of Special Education now offers the Parent Survey in Haitian-Creole. View the additional language online and download a printable copy from the Special Education website. As a part of their reporting responsibilities, local education agencies should ensure that the Parent Survey is available for all families to provide feedback on their experience with special

The Special Education Directors Symposium consists of a group of Indiana special education directors who share a common interest in improving outcomes for students with disabilities. IDOE meets at least once every month to share resources, quidance, and updates to the group. The resources and recordings of all sessions are available in the Special Education Community Moodle page under "Technical Assistance Resources." The symposium will meet again next on Tuesday, May 6,

IDOE's Office of Special Education is updating its monitoring procedures for local educational agencies (LEAs) due to changes in federal guidance. Effective immediately, IDOE will shift to a new monitoring schedule where approximately 70 LEAs will be reviewed annually. The monitoring cycle will follow a six-year cohort schedule, with adjustments based on an annual risk assessment. Each LEA will be monitored at least once during this six-year cycle. All LEAs will be monitored annually through a

These changes are necessary to maintain compliance and ensure that students receive high-quality services. IDOE will provide resources and guidance to support LEAs through this transition. Further details regarding the updated process, including guidance on self-monitoring and the risk assessment, will be shared in the coming weeks. Contact IDOE's Office of Special

The Office of Special Education has developed a new fillable Good Cause Exemption (GCE) form to support the transition from IIEP to PowerSchool Special Programs following the summer retest. While use of this form is optional, it is available to

NEW: High-Quality Curricular Materials Advisory Lists Now Available - K-12 STEM & Early Learning

Academic Standards and Early Learning Standards. Information regarding the process of review, requirements, and more can be found in this memo and in this FAQ resource. Cost sheets for approved vendor curriculum are available on IDOE's High-Quality Curricular Materials Advisory Lists webpage. Contact IDOE's Office of Teaching and Learning with questions regarding the K-12

Join educators and administrators from Lafayette School Corporation on Wednesday, May 7, at 3 p.m. ET as they highlight the use of the Digital Learning Grant to support teacher growth through the innovative use of TeachFX, an Al-powered tool that provides low-stakes, high-impact instructional feedback. Learn how they identified their needs, explored solutions, and implemented professional learning that empowers both new and veteran teachers. Register for this session in the Indiana

IDOE published approved high-quality curricular materials for K-12 STEM and early learning aligned to the 2023 Indiana

STEM advisory list and Office of Kindergarten Readiness for questions regarding the early learning advisory list.

NEW: Digital Learning Success Story: A Journey Into Al-Driven Instructional Feedback with

REMINDER: Digital Learning Grant and Digital Intervention Training & Implementation Grant.

REMINDER: Corporation and Building Leadership - Artificial Intelligence (AI) Professional

Two grant opportunities are now available and accepting applications until Friday, May 16, the 2025 Digital Learning Grant and the Indiana Digital Intervention Training and Implementation Grant. More information on both competitive grants can be found on the respective memos. The recording for the grant information session can be found here. Contact the Office of Digital

Corporation and building leadership are invited to join Dr. Sabba Quidwai for two sessions about AI in education in the Indiana Learning Lab. Join Foresight and Foundations: Designing the Future of Education with AI on Tuesday, May 6, at 10 a.m. ET and From Tools to Teammates: Redesigning Education with Al and Human Collaboration on Tuesday, May 13, at 10 a.m. ET. Register

Join educators across the state for presentations in the Indiana Learning Lab for a series of sessions spotlighting practical ways they are using AI in the classroom. Fifteen presentations lasting 10 to 15 minutes each will take place over the course of three afternoons, starting at noon E.T. from Wednesday, May 14, through Friday, May 16. Register to attend here. Contact IDOE's

organizations in establishing or maintaining robotics competition programs to expand opportunities to increase interest and improve skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through participation in competitive robotics programs. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply here. Please note that all 2025 2026 K-12 Robotics Competition Grant Applications are due by 11:45 p.m. on Friday, May 16. A virtual information session was held on Tuesday, April 15, to explain the grant and application process. Please view these slides from that meeting for more information. Contact TLgrants@doe.in.gov

The FFY2025/FY2026 Pre-application is now available through the <u>Title Grants Pre-app Moodle</u>. All instructions, forms, and submission information may be found within the Moodle course. The Pre-application is due July 1, 2025 (please note, reimbursement eligibility begins July 1, 2025 or the date at which the Pre-application is submitted in reviewable format,

Thank you to everyone who was able to join IDOE at TitleCon 2025. If you have not done so already, please take a few minutes

The 2025-2026 K-12 Robotics Competition Grant is designed to support state-accredited schools and other eligible

from 3 to 4:30 p.m. ET. Register here for the symposium and direct any questions to spedassistance@doe.in.gov.

risk assessment and a self-assessment process to ensure all LEAs are meeting compliance standards.

<u>Calendar</u> for the meeting link. Contact IDOE's <u>Office of English Learning and Migrant Education</u> with any questions.

equitable services to non-public schools. The session will share best practices with initial and ongoing consultation

requirements for LEAs. Please join us on Microsoft Teams on Monday, May 5, from 9 to 10 a.m. ET. Contact

REMINDER: School-Based Medicaid Administrative Claiming Office Hours

The May Graduation Pathways webinar will take place on Thursday, May 22, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET. The webinar will focus on data reporting. Please use this <u>link</u> to join the webinar. Contact IDOE's <u>Office of Student Pathways and Opportunities</u> with any

Download and open it in a PDF editor. Complete a separate form for each student for whom a GCE meeting is held. Upload the completed forms to PowerSchool Special Programs once the system is live. Contact IDOE's Office of Special Education with any questions.

Office of Teaching and Learning, Digital Learning, and

information in the "comments" section at the end of the checkout process. This would include if a student has an extended school year or if the educator is working during the summer. If you need assistance contacting a manufacturer to receive a demo device during this time, please contact atlaslib@eastersealscrossroads.org, and we will do our best to assist. Please reach out to us with any questions.

NEW FROM ATLAS: End of School Year ATLAS Lending Library Update

REMINDER FROM THE INDIANA STATE MUSEUM: K-12 Teacher Survey

Respondents will receive \$10 as a thank you for their time. Contact Elena Tsakakis with any questions.

REMINDER FROM AP-TIP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME: 2025 Summer Institute

REMINDER FROM THE LILLY ENDOWMENT: Renewal Grants for Indiana K-12 Educators

award approximately 125 grants, each totaling up to \$15,000, in 2026. The application deadline is 6 p.m. ET on Monday,

Did you miss a message? View previous weekly emails here.

Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update from the Indiana Department of Education is distributed every Friday morning.

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to complete the conference survey. Please share your thoughts and feedback by Monday, May 5. Breakout presentations and additional post-conference materials are available in the TitleCon 2025 Moodle course. REMINDER: Title Grants and Support Summer School Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) IDOE's Office of Title Grants and Support have developed guidance for LEAs using federal grants to support summer school programming. Review the FAQ document here. Contact your Federal Grants Specialist with any questions. **Indiana Commission for Higher Education NEW: Graduation Details Collection** The Commission (CHE) hosted a webinar for high school staff on April 24 to kick off EOY reporting, commonly known as Graduation Details collection. CHE's Outreach Coordinators will work with school staff to collect graduation details for graduating 21st Century Scholars, as well as students earning honors diplomas, in addition to collecting FAFSA opt-out statuses in accordance with SEA 167-2023. Financial aid award creation for 21st Century Scholars is dependent on the collection of final, anticipated diploma type and final GPA in adherence to the Scholar Pledge. Students will run into issues at their college or university if these details are not reported and if the award is not created in ScholarTrack. Here is a recording of the webinar housed on the @LearnMoreIN YouTube page. A step-by-step reporting guide can be found at learnmoreindiana.org/grad-details to aid school staff in this process. School staff should connect with their Outreach Coordinator for questions and support. All Graduation Details reporting must be submitted via ScholarTrack no later than June 30, 2025.

The Commission is beginning its next round of Indiana Pre-Admissions: Your Path to College. Indiana Pre-Admissions is a statewide pre-admissions initiative from CHE, in partnership with Indiana's higher education institutions. The initiative works by "pre-admitting" high school seniors to colleges across Indiana based on their junior year GPA and/or SAT score. Last year, 39

Ready campaign. Each fall, these students will receive a grade-level-specific letter full of tips and reminders to get them

Opting into Indiana Pre-Admissions also benefits your incoming freshmen, sophomores, and juniors through our new Enrollment

If you are a school administrator and would like your high school to participate in this initiative for the 2026 cohort, please email

ASSET is an innovative 11-month alternative pathway designed for licensed teachers seeking to enhance their qualifications by earning special education licensure in Mild Interventions, Intense Interventions, or both, at no cost, during the school day. Participants benefit from a structured curriculum that combines theoretical knowledge with practical application, ensuring they are well-prepared to meet the diverse needs of their students. By adding these special education endorsements, teachers can increase their employability and effectiveness in the classroom, ultimately improving educational outcomes for students with disabilities. Moreover, ASSET fosters a supportive community of like-minded professionals who share best practices and collaborate on solutions for common challenges. Embrace this opportunity to grow professionally and make a difference in the

field of special education by joining ASSET Cohort 4 beginning in July. More information can be found here. Contact

NEW FROM INDY SPORTS CORP AND THE FINAL FOUR COMMITTEE: Read to the Final Four

Read to the Final Four is a statewide literacy challenge celebrating the 2026 NCAA Men's Final Four in Indianapolis! As we gear up for this exciting statewide initiative, we want to hear from you: our valued partners in education, libraries, youth services, and community leadership. Please take a moment to complete our brief Community Literacy Survey. Your insights will help us design programs that best support schools, families, and community organizations now and in the future. Please completed by Sunday, June 1. Thank you for championing Indiana's young readers! Whether you're a librarian, educator, district leader, or community partner, we're grateful to have you on this journey. If you have questions or want to get involved further, please reach

The last day to submit a loan request to the ATLAS Lending Library for this school year will be Monday, May 5, after which the library will suspend most loan services until the fall. All loans requested on or before Monday, May 5, will have a due date of Friday, May 30. Loans requested after Monday, May 5, will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Please include any relevant

NEW FROM THE NATIONAL CENTER ON ACCESSIBLE DIGITAL EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS INSTRUCTION (NCADEMI): Including Accessibility in Your EdTech Decisions Are you responsible for making EdTech purchasing decisions for your state or local education agency? Are you part of the team that vets and recommends products for use in the K-12 classroom? If so, this free webinar from NCADEMI will help you include accessibility in your procurement processes and ensure that all students can access and use the tools you provide. NCADEMI specialists will discuss familiar components where accessibility can be embedded, such as Requests for Information and Requests for Proposals, scoring matrices, and contract language. They will also discuss some additional components, such as vendor documentation and demonstrations, which can enhance your understanding of the vendor's commitment to accessibility as well as demonstrate accessibility conformance. When accessibility is integrated into all components of procurement, school districts ensure students with disabilities gain equal access to the general education curriculum. Sign up for the NCADEMI newsletter to receive updates as more webinars are announced.

The Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, in partnership with the Science Museum of Minnesota, is offering a \$10 gift card to those who fill out a brief survey regarding the current needs of Indiana teachers. This survey is part of a study exploring how external resources, like museums, can better support teachers, students, and schools in Indiana. Any current Indiana K-12 teacher is eligible to participate, whether you have familiarity with museums or not. Click here to complete the survey.

AP-TIP's 2025 Summer Institute for AP and dual credit educators will be held on Tuesday, July 8, through Friday, July 11, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET at Pike High School in Indianapolis. Participants will engage in conference-style training designed to strengthen instructional practice. AP teachers meet College Board requirements for training during the four-day Summer Institute. Dual credit teachers are invited to join the Summer Institute on Wednesday, July 9, and Thursday, July 10, for a variety of conference sessions that emphasize shared approaches for engaging and challenging all students of advanced coursework.

The Lilly Endowment is accepting applications for its <u>Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program</u>. This program supports educators throughout Indiana by providing resources for them to take time for meaningful renewal. The Endowment believes that through new experiences, exploration, and reflection educators can generate renewed energy in their careers, innovative approaches to teaching and educational leadership, and thoughtful ways to encourage students' creative thinking. The Endowment expects to

Tuesday, August 19 To learn more or register for one of these sessions, visit the Lilly Endowment website. Contact Lilly Endowment staff at <u>teachercreativity@lei.org</u> with any questions.

September 8. Two information sessions will be held in August:

View previous weekly updates from Dr. Katie Jenner here. Stay Informed