



# Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

June 6, 2023

FILED

To: Indiana State Ethics Commission

JUN 6 2023

From: Indiana Department of Education

INDIANA STATE  
ETHICS COMMISSION

RE: IDOE filing of travel ethics waiver

- A. IDOE employees: Charity Flores – Chief Academic Officer, Karriane Polk-Meek – Director of Teaching and Learning, and Scott Bogan – Director of Higher Education and Educator Preparation
- B. Nature and value of the gift: All travel costs for three IDOE employees, including travel to and from the airport, airfare to Cary, North Carolina, hotel accommodation for one night, and meals during travel days. Travel will occur July 18-19, 2023. Approximate cumulative value of the travel for all travelers: \$3000.
- C. The donor of the gift: The Hunt Institute, non-profit organization committed to improving education nationwide, headquartered in Cary, North Carolina. IDOE currently has a contractual relationship with The Hunt Institute as it provides IDOE with advisory services.
- D. Statement on public interest: In September of 2021 the Lilly Endowment provided a grant totally \$60 million dollars to support science of reading. This grant agreement included a partnership with the Hunt Institute, who's expertise in the Science of Reading, research and policy analysis is unparalleled in the country. Part of the partnership with the Hunt Institute includes the Path Forward. The Path Forward initiative ensures that alignment occurs to support the Science of Reading. This work, in addition to state level initiatives will ensure that 95% of students will read on level by grade 3 by 2027. This work will influence the academic outcome of students for generations to come. To ensure maximum participation in the review and decision-making processes, and to facilitate in-person discussions among state academic directors, The Hunt Institute is covering travel costs. Allowing The Hunt Institute to pay for certain travel expenses related to the July meeting for IDOE's academic leads, all of whom are responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Science of Reading in Indiana, allows IDOE's state funds to be expended on the development, administration, and resources associated with hands on implementation in Indiana schools, rather than travel.

*Nicola Szarenski*  
Nicola Szarenski- IDOE Ethics Officer

6/5/2023  
Date