

Midwestern Higher Education Compact



RESOLUTION ON REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

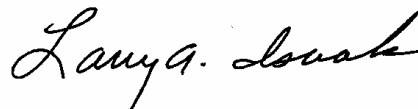
- WHEREAS,** the 108th Congress will be reauthorizing the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), which provides an opportunity for leaders at the state, regional and federal levels to demonstrate their commitment to providing citizens access to postsecondary education; and
- WHEREAS,** the federal government's actions on the reauthorization of the HEA significantly impacts the ability of students to attend postsecondary education; and
- WHEREAS,** the governance of higher education is a role of the states and governing entities of public and independent institutions; and
- WHEREAS,** the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) is one of four interstate compacts in the nation devoted to improving the quality of postsecondary education in its region and consists of the member states of Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio and Wisconsin; and
- WHEREAS,** each member state has five Commissioners appointed to MHEC's governing body by the governor or the governor's designee, each chamber of the state legislature, and two at-large members, one of whom must come from postsecondary education; and the 50-member MHEC Commission is committed to working cooperatively with Congress and the federal government in the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act; and
- WHEREAS,** the Compact's mission is to advance education through cooperation by: 1) enhancing productivity through reductions in administrative costs; 2) encouraging student access, completion and affordability; 3) facilitating public policy analysis and information exchange; 4) facilitating regional academic cooperation and services; 5) promoting quality educational programs; and 6) encouraging innovation in the delivery of educational services; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that Congress focus primarily on expanding support for student need-based federal financial assistance programs with increasing emphasis on grants; and be it further

- RESOLVED,** that Congress review and restate its support and acknowledge states for their contributions to state-level financial assistance programs; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that Congress increase its support of initiatives that foster greater student access, preparation, persistence and completion; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that Congress create greater cost efficiencies for institutions and states by streamlining federal financial assistance application processes and other reporting and data collection processes, and consider initiatives that avoid increased federal reporting requirements that add costs to institutions, states and students; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that Congress avoid “one-size-fits-all” federal accountability measures and recognize that states are best positioned to enact appropriate accountability measures, tailored to states’ goals and needs, which vary significantly, on access, quality, completion and cost; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that Congress recognize tuition and student cost-setting are responsibilities of the states and governing entities of public and independent institutions because tuition rates and circumstances relevant in setting tuition vary considerably by institution type, program and student demand, and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that Congress acknowledge and endorse the principle that authority and responsibility for admissions and faculty appointments rest in governing entities of public and independent institutions; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the Executive Committee of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact deliver the Compact’s resolution to the appropriate members of Congress, Governors, state delegations and MHEC Commissioners.

Directed by the Commission of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact
This 14th Day of November, 2003; and as
Approved this 8th Day of December, 2003
By the Executive Committee of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact



Lana Oleen
Chair
Midwestern Higher Education Compact
Kansas Senate Majority Leader



Larry A. Isaak
President
Midwestern Higher Education Compact