



STRATEGIC PLAN | 2025 – 2028

MISSION

MHEC brings together leaders from Midwestern states to develop and support best practices, collaborative efforts, and cost-sharing opportunities. Through these efforts, MHEC works to ensure strong postsecondary educational opportunities and outcomes for all.

VISION

To improve student success and regional economic vitality through collective problem-solving and partnerships that strengthen postsecondary education.

VALUES

Collaboration. We believe working together in an open, respectful environment creates a foundation for cooperation and innovation that allows us to research, share, pilot, and scale ideas to improve our individual institutions, states, and region.

Innovation. We believe that bringing creativity, research, and problem solving to the challenges and opportunities in higher education helps produce new ideas and excellent results for our states, institutions, and students.

Access & Attainment. We believe that addressing obstacles to higher education opens opportunity for students from all backgrounds and helps institutions advance student success.

Excellence. We believe that high standards combined with intentional and efficient use of our resources produce valuable outcomes for our member states and their respective institutions.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Expand cost- and time-saving initiatives.

- Explore, evaluate, and potentially launch shared services opportunities.
- Improve existing and expand new cost-savings contracts, initiatives, and programs.

Support alignment of postsecondary education and workforce development.

- Facilitate development of a regional approach to collect and share data related to student attainment, migration, and employment.
- Identify best practices and evidence-supported strategies that advance alignment of workforce development and postsecondary education.
- Identify and address obstacles to student access to education and training.

Advance regional solutions for emerging topics in higher education.

- Convene regional leaders on pressing issues identified by member states (e.g., college closures, funding models, AI, demographic changes, dual enrollment).
- Standardize an approach to address emerging issues, using MHEC's FAFSA work as a guiding example.
- Conduct timely, meaningful research to support state decision making around policy and investment in higher education.

Build deeper and broader engagement with MHEC.

- Amplify MHEC's distinct role and value for member states and their institutions, students, and families.
- Articulate and advance the value proposition for postsecondary education.
- Build strategic relationships to expand MHEC's capacity and impact.

Optimize operations.

- Standardize policies, procedures, and workflows to support organizational impact.
- Align tools and systems to improve efficiency and collaboration.
- Leverage automation and AI to streamline operations and optimize staff time.