In FY 2017 the Compact saw many positive transitions. A new strategic plan and new logo were approved, and we achieved nearly **$1 BILLION** of cumulative savings for our constituents. The Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) staff looks forward to connecting our work to the strategic plan’s outlined themes, to ensure continued relevancy for the Midwest region.

Those four themes are:

- Shifting demographics - changing composition of the student body;
- Evolving modes of packaging and delivering education;
- Declining share of public investment in higher education; and
- Desire for collaboration beyond the institution

I am grateful for our commissioners’ and advisory committees’ feedback through the planning process. Our staff cross-referenced countless pages of notes from the feedback we received. It is apparent that MHEC will continue to have an important role in addressing the challenges our region’s postsecondary institutions face. I look forward to the input of our constituents as we address these challenges together.

Collectively creating solutions that build higher education’s capacity to better serve **INDIVIDUALS, INSTITUTIONS, and STATES** by leveraging the region’s **EXPERTISE, IDEAS, AND EXPERIENCES** through multi-state **CONVENING, PROGRAMS, CONTRACTS, AND RESEARCH.**
Created in the early 1990s, the Midwestern Higher Education Compact was created through the enactment of legislation recommended by the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments and is funded by member state commitments, foundation grants, and program income.

All 12 eligible Midwestern states defined by the Compact have passed legislation to become members. The states are closely aligned to the Midwestern Legislative Conference region.

The **CONVENINGS, PROGRAMS, CONTRACTS, and RESEARCH** originating through the Compact are available to all public and private nonprofit institutions of higher education in the Midwest. When the opportunity emerges, MHEC also extends some contracts to K-12 districts and schools, cities, states, and local governments.

Uniquely governed by a 60-member commission of legislators, governors’ representatives, and higher education leaders, two of the Compact’s commissioners are appointed by each state’s legislature and three are generally appointed by each state’s governor.

The entire commission meets annually and the commission’s Executive Committee meets semiannually. Meeting locations rotate among the member states and commissioner travel is paid for by the Compact.
MHEC **CONVENING** empowers the member states to connect for the purpose of exchanging expertise, sharing ideas and experiences, and collaboratively pursuing efforts that help further higher education. This convening and collaborating leads to many programs and activities that produce a variety of outcomes and results ranging from the dissemination of knowledge and expertise about practical solutions, to leveraging the collective purchasing power of the region to achieve efficiencies and savings. MHEC covers the cost of these meetings, including the travel expenses of participating members, so states and institutions do not have to use travel funds to participate.

**MULTI-STATE COLLABORATIVE ON MILITARY CREDIT**

The Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit’s (MCMC) mission is to facilitate an interstate partnership of the MHEC 12 member states plus Kentucky, to advance best practices designed to help veterans and their families to transition from military life to college campuses, and to translate competencies acquired by veterans through military training and experience toward college credentials. Grant funding supports the work of the MCMC. The three-year project builds on the efforts of individuals in ten states, including several in the MHEC region, who have collaborated virtually and in person over the past two and a half years to exchange information and share best practices in four areas: Articulation of Academic Credit; Licensure and Certification; Communications and Outreach; and Data, Technology, and Systems.

**2016-2017 MCMC HIGHLIGHTS**

- Met with key officials at the Veterans of Foreign Wars to consult on the Forever GI Bill and at the American Legion to participate in roundtables discussing credentialing.
- Produced 8 webinars with over 1,000 participants with 44 out of 50 states participating in one or more.
- Released monthly updates which has over 800 subscribers across the nation.
- Received recognition for MCMC work in news articles and blogs.
- Connected with key contacts within the American Council on Education, American Legion, Association for Institutional Research, Army University, Medical Education and Training Campus, Solutions for Information Design, and Student Veterans of America.
- Presented and attended regional and national conferences in order to showcase MCMC work.

**COMMISSION MEETING AND POLICY FORUM**

Twice a year MHEC convenes its governing body to conduct Commission business, learn about what is happening in the other MHEC states, showcase higher education related state and regional success stories, hear presentations on the ever-changing higher education landscape, and exchange best practices on higher education issues facing the Midwest. A half-day in-depth policy focus is part of the annual meeting. Along with the MHEC Commissioners, MHEC invites other legislators and higher education leaders from the region to attend.

**ANNUAL STATE VISITS**

At least once a year the MHEC staff visit each member state of the Compact to hold a meeting with that state’s commissioners. Key legislative leaders as well as state higher education officials are also invited to attend these meetings. During these meetings staff reports on MHEC activities taking place in their state, and offers ideas to better leverage the MHEC offerings.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEES CONVENE**

MHEC brings together committees of practitioners and subject-matter experts to share knowledge and expertise on issues facing higher education while brainstorming on ways to collaboratively address these issues. MHEC relies upon these committees to continually improve and evaluate the programs and contracts while enabling them to problem solve with similarly situated thought leaders in their field. Over the past year MHEC hosted colleagues from around the region for the Technologies Committee Annual Meeting, the Master Property Program’s Loss Control Workshop, the MCMC Annual Meeting, and the Midwestern-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement Annual Meeting.
MHEC **PROGRAMS** are initiated in response to identified needs in one or more of the member states. Bringing together expertise from across the region, MHEC identifies activities needed to address the identified needs. Those problems best solved through interstate cooperation are then developed into MHEC programs. MHEC programs are unique in that postsecondary education institutions are the primary participants, although MHEC programs address the needs and perspectives of all constituencies in the midwestern region, with particular regard to those groups that historically have been under-represented in postsecondary education. Each MHEC program provides the program participants with governance and leadership structures to guide and maintain programmatic outcomes.

**PROPERTY INSURANCE**

The property insurance program, also known as the Master Property Program (MPP), was developed in 1994 to broaden property insurance coverage, reduce program costs, and encourage improved asset protection strategies for Midwestern 2- and 4-year colleges and universities. Since its inception, MPP participation has more than 170 campuses with total insured values exceeding $94.8 billion.

Due to the program’s success, the program has developed a program mission to be the premier property insurance program for MHEC, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE), and the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) institutions with a focus on strategic growth, program stability, and member value. The program is administered by Marsh, Inc. and the two primary insurance carriers on the program are AIG and Zurich.

As demonstrated by benchmarking, the program costs continue to remain below industry averages due to the program’s volume and asset protection strategies tailored to higher education institutions.

**2016-2017 PROPERTY INSURANCE HIGHLIGHTS**

- More than $7.7 million in FY 2017 was saved by participating institutions in the MHEC region.
- Joining the program were institutions from the states of:
  - Kansas: Dodge City Community College, Pratt Community College, and Allen Community College
  - Colorado: Colorado School of Mines
- The 19th Annual Loss Control Workshop included over 150 MPP participants including campus risk managers and fiscal officers, as well as personnel from campus legal, physical plant, facilities, and purchasing departments.

**HEALTH INSURANCE SOLUTIONS**

The Compact’s health insurance solutions program, MHECare, was created in conjunction with MHEC’s Student Health Benefits Advisory Committee, a network of institutional peers, health center professionals, and risk managers focused on student health. Designed in response to increasing costs and concern for student health, MHECare provides robust health reform compliant benefits to students, streamlined plan administration, and economies of scale through MHEC’s purchasing power with national underwriter, UnitedHealthcare StudentResources.

Additionally, a private exchange product with provider IXSolutions (IXS) is available for campuses unable to offer an institution-sponsored student health insurance plan. Using this plug-and-play solution saves campuses administrative time in assisting students in selecting health insurance and providing value by offering students access to a wide range of coverage options and personal support.
MIDWEST STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP) offers reduced tuition rates to students in the states of Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. Since 1994, MHEC has been providing more affordable educational opportunities for students to attend out-of-state institutions at reduced costs. MSEP serves as the Midwest’s largest multi-state tuition reciprocity program. Nearly 100 campuses from the participating states have opened their doors to students at reduced rates. Public institutions enrolling students under the program agree to charge no more than 150% of the in-state resident tuition rate while private institutions offer a 10% reduction on their tuition rates.

2016-2017 MSEP HIGHLIGHTS

- Ohio joined MSEP in May 2017, and three institutions have signed on to participate:
  - Cleveland State University
  - Rio Grande University
  - University of Akron
- Five new institutions signed on to participate:
  - Indiana University East
  - Indiana University Kokomo
  - Indiana University Southeast
  - St. Louis Community College (MO)
  - University of Minnesota Duluth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MSEP STUDENT ENROLLMENT STATUS 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STATUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MSEP ENROLLMENT BY STUDENTS’ HOME STATE OF RESIDENCE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
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<td>Minnesota</td>
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<td>Missouri</td>
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<td>Nebraska</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MSEP ENROLLMENT BY INSTITUTION STATE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
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<td>Kansas</td>
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<td>Missouri</td>
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<td>Nebraska</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Tuition Savings by Home State of Residence (in Dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>2016-17</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>$40,102,941</td>
<td>$127,611,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>$1,414,224</td>
<td>$6,603,782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>$4,249,518</td>
<td>$68,398,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>$5,357,268</td>
<td>$44,395,137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>$7,463,326</td>
<td>$34,280,838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>$5,818,550</td>
<td>$41,021,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>$5,783,584</td>
<td>$60,757,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>$534,060</td>
<td>$4,024,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>$5,002,996</td>
<td>$33,081,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$75,726,465</strong></td>
<td><strong>$420,174,291</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Average MSEP Savings by Students’ Home State of Residence 2016-2017 School Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>AVERAGE SAVINGS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>$6,182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>$5,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>$6,578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>$6,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>$6,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>$8,482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>$6,926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>$7,522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>$7,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,528</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT

The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement, or SARA, was launched in 2013 to aid institutions in complying with regulations governing distance education courses delivered across state lines. Coordinated by a national council, each regional higher education compact offers a framework for nationwide interstate reciprocity which simplifies the state authorization process. SARA advances student opportunity by making distance education courses more accessible, enhances state regulation of distance education by systematizing authorization requirements, and eases the burden of state authorization compliance on institutions. Institutions are able to save thousands of dollars in fees they paid previously to individual states where they operate distance education programs.

2016-2017 SARA HIGHLIGHTS

• The Midwest was the first region to have all states participating in SARA.
• Saved institutions an estimated $14.5 in FY 2017.
• 48 states, Washington, D.C., and The U.S. Virgin Islands have joined SARA.
• Participating SARA institutions passed the 1,500 mark during Summer 2017, with about one-third of participating institutions located in MHEC states.
• The M-SARA Regional Steering Committee and the Midwestern SARA State Portal Agents meet quarterly with their annual face-to-face meetings taking place in July of each year.

PROGRAMS
MHEC **CONTRACTS** leverage the potential volume of the region’s purchasing power, while saving entities time and money by simplifying the procurement process and negating the need to conduct a competitive sourcing event. By offering a turnkey solution with the ability to tailor the already negotiated contract to match the entity’s specific needs and requirements, MHEC contracts shift some of the negotiating power back to the entities. Additionally, because of MHEC’s statutory status, many of these contracts can also be adopted for use by K-12 districts and schools, as well as cities, states and local governments. Smaller institutions benefit from these contracts as they allow these institutions to receive some pricing and terms normally reserved for larger institutions. Committee members participate in the negotiations, sharing strategies, and tactics on dealing with specific contractual issues and vendors.

**FEATURES**

- **Pricing:** Established price ceiling for purchases, with additional discounts often available from vendors for special or large order purchases.

- **Contract flexibility:** Allows institutions to tailor contracts to fit specific needs without having to incur the cost of rebidding for the products and services covered in a MHEC contract.

- **Reduces Duplication of Effort:** Competitive solicitations integrates with institutions procurement process with negotiated Master Agreement terms and conditions, licensing, and pricing.

**TECHNOLOGY**

The Compact’s technology initiatives efforts are guided by institutional chief information officers, technical experts, and procurement professionals who are forward-leaning and strategic thinkers. Referred to as MHEC’s Technologies Committee, they are respected for their ability to run IT well at their campuses and yet they contribute to broader conversations on the role of technology within higher education.

MHEC is a means for these subject matter experts to consistently collaborate on identifying regional issues and committing resources to leverage a solution through the Compact’s statutory authority. The committee is very selective in the types of technology contracts that are pursued. Vendors are vetted through an open competitive solicitation, prepared and evaluated by the committee, with contracts awarded based on the criteria and applicable law.

MHEC then enters into agreements for the benefit of its member states, effectively letting eligible entities within those states have access to MHEC contracts, expediting the procurement process, with the flexibility to amend the terms to best meet their needs. The agreements are available for use by all public and private not-for-profit institutions of higher education in the MHEC, SREB, and WICHE member states. Some of the agreements are also available for use by cities, states, and local governments, and K-12 districts and schools.

**CURRENT CONTRACTS:**

[www.mhectech.org/contracts](http://www.mhectech.org/contracts)

- **Hardware:** Dell, HP Enterprise, HP Inc., Lenovo, and Oracle
- **Software:** Arrow Electronics/CommVault, Arrow Electronics/VMware, Corel Corporation, Novell, Oracle, and SAS
- **Printers and Peripherals:** HP Inc., and Xerox
- **Data and Networking Initiatives:** Alcatel-Lucent/Dice Communications, Ciena/Walker and Associates, Inc., Dell, and HP Enterprise
- **Security Event and Information Management (SEIM):** Novell
- **Services:** Info-Tech Research Group and Parchment

**2016–2017 TECHNOLOGY HIGHLIGHTS**

- Saved entities in the MHEC region nearly $26 million in FY 2017.
- Hosted a breakfast and exhibited at the NACUBO 2017 annual meeting.
- Hosted a breakfast at EDUCAUSE 2017 with over 48 in attendance.
- Presented, attended, or hosted a MHEC table/booth at over 15 state, regional, or national conferences.
- Provided strong sales among the technology initiatives with over $325 million incurred nationally.
## MHEC Annual Estimated Savings for Entities and Citizens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MHEC Member States</th>
<th>What Member States Paid 2016-2017 (State Commitment)</th>
<th>Total Annual Savings</th>
<th>Contracts</th>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Computing Hardware</td>
<td>Computing Software</td>
<td>Technology Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>115,000</td>
<td>52,339,761</td>
<td>5,715,253</td>
<td>846,788</td>
<td>1,113,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>115,000</td>
<td>5,542,959</td>
<td>1,537,322</td>
<td>238,021</td>
<td>1,081,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>1,743,889</td>
<td>340,780</td>
<td>13,749</td>
<td>4,294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>115,000</td>
<td>7,577,946</td>
<td>534,845</td>
<td>180,316</td>
<td>7,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>115,000</td>
<td>11,412,444</td>
<td>3,019,891</td>
<td>367,535</td>
<td>984,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>115,000</td>
<td>11,620,335</td>
<td>1,901,689</td>
<td>680,988</td>
<td>54,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>115,000</td>
<td>12,040,150</td>
<td>1,639,278</td>
<td>185,032</td>
<td>1,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>115,000</td>
<td>7,681,527</td>
<td>386,526</td>
<td>194,865</td>
<td>1,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>115,000</td>
<td>1,112,118</td>
<td>97,243</td>
<td>144,191</td>
<td>625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>115,000</td>
<td>3,959,697</td>
<td>1,156,633</td>
<td>368,861</td>
<td>578,204</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>115,000</td>
<td>110,045</td>
<td>48,511</td>
<td>61,368</td>
<td>165</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>115,000</td>
<td>8,498,154</td>
<td>1,968,259</td>
<td>113,018</td>
<td>29,881</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Totals</td>
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<td>$123,638,994</td>
<td>$18,346,230</td>
<td>$3,394,733</td>
<td>$3,856,903</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Footnotes:
2. Contracts include: Novell/MHEC Collaborative Program, Oracle, Arrow/VMWare, SAS, and Corel.
6. Savings does not include personnel and travel cost savings.
## MHEC Cumulative Estimated Savings for Entities and Citizens through June 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MHEC Member States</th>
<th>Contracts</th>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Cumulative State Savings</th>
<th>What Member States Paid Cumulative (State Commitment)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Computing Hardware</td>
<td>Computing Software</td>
<td>Technology Services</td>
<td>Legacy Initiatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois (Member Since 8/20/1991)</td>
<td>83,698,821</td>
<td>6,024,318</td>
<td>1,964,729</td>
<td>15,672,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana (Member Since 3/14/1996)</td>
<td>27,877,772</td>
<td>2,872,765</td>
<td>1,458,613</td>
<td>5,358,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa (Member Since 6/6/2005)</td>
<td>6,236,707</td>
<td>353,315</td>
<td>11,187</td>
<td>231,371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas (Member Since 4/25/1990)</td>
<td>7,977,650</td>
<td>1,853,358</td>
<td>17,933</td>
<td>3,025,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan (Member Since 7/24/1990)</td>
<td>47,171,778</td>
<td>3,717,970</td>
<td>1,603,583</td>
<td>43,222,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota (Member Since 4/26/1990)</td>
<td>16,526,236</td>
<td>3,805,810</td>
<td>125,059</td>
<td>10,876,074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri (Member Since 5/9/1990)</td>
<td>20,500,927</td>
<td>1,923,854</td>
<td>12,701</td>
<td>5,484,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska (Member Since 6/5/1991)</td>
<td>4,645,336</td>
<td>1,412,421</td>
<td>39,812</td>
<td>2,127,919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota (Member Since 4/22/1999)</td>
<td>1,564,629</td>
<td>747,251</td>
<td>9,513</td>
<td>1,000,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio (Member Since 5/9/1991)</td>
<td>27,387,130</td>
<td>3,445,135</td>
<td>1,298,121</td>
<td>32,198,285</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Dakota (Member Since 3/15/2003)</td>
<td>461,979</td>
<td>338,998</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin (Member Since 4/3/1994)</td>
<td>17,840,186</td>
<td>746,442</td>
<td>56,142</td>
<td>6,747,463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$261,889,152</td>
<td>$27,241,637</td>
<td>$6,597,846</td>
<td>$125,945,750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FOOTNOTES:**
2. Contracts include: Novell/MHEC Collaborative Program, Oracle, Corel, Arrow/VMWare, SAS, and Open Systems.
3. Contracts include: Info-Tech Research Group, Parchment, and CampusEAI.
4. Expired contracts include: office products, telecommunications, equipment maintenance, and academic scheduling, Interactive video, and APN.
5. Based on premium and loss information as of June 30, 2017.
6. Iowa State University asked MHEC to bid their property insurance for FY 2009. The MHEC bid, with a much lower deductible, was $186,205 less per year than ISU was paying. ISU selected their current carrier at a price of $858,824 or $201,532 less than paid in FY 2008.
7. In 2009, 2012, and 2013, SD Office of Risk Management requested a quote for property insurance at its six SD Regent institutions. Even though the SD Offices of Risk Management kept its current carrier, they indicated the MHEC quotes saved the institutions $85,000, $239,302, and $168,233 respectively.
9. Savings does not include personnel and travel cost savings.
MHEC RESEARCH is meant to inform institutional and state efforts in improving postsecondary policies, practices, and outcomes. Through its efforts MHEC seeks to provide policy guidance, showcase best practices, and convene thought leaders on important higher education issues facing MHEC member states and the region. To help its efforts, MHEC has established a higher education research review panel for state policy and performance evaluation to help guide it in its policy research work.

MHEC produces timely briefs, reports, and technical papers that assist in the evaluation of postsecondary performance, the analysis of state policies, and the identification of effective institutional practices. The intended audience for MHEC’s research includes commissioners, state legislators and agency staff, institutional and system leaders, and the broader community of higher education researchers.

2016-2017 MAJOR PUBLICATIONS HIGHLIGHTS
MHEC’s publications are available for download at www.mhec.org/research.

- **Performance Evaluation.**
  - Higher Education in Focus: Selected Performance Indicators. This biennial report is intended to inform public discourse on higher education by providing key performance indicators relevant to the goal of increasing educational attainment. Performance indicators are categorized within six dimensions: Preparation, Participation, Affordability, Completion, Equity, and Finance.
  - Measuring Educational Quality. MHEC has been collaborating with SHEEO to produce a report on educational quality indicators in state accountability systems. The report will provide a 50-state analysis of quality indicators and their use in either performance reporting or funding systems.
  - State Educational Performance Indicators Data System. MHEC has been developing an interactive online tool that allows users to select peer states and performance indicators as well as generate custom reports.

- **College Affordability and Finance.**
  - State Higher Education Financing Models. This brief addresses four areas in which state policy makers can learn from practices in other states and from principles of sound public policy design to strengthen their higher education financing systems. The year-to-year stability of funding, the balance between appropriations for institutions and student aid, the growing interest in tuition-free community colleges, and the allocation of funds across public colleges and universities are all areas in which states take a variety of approaches, with quite different implications for educational opportunity.
  - A Review of College Promise Programs: Evidence from the Midwest. College promise or tuition-free college programs are becoming increasingly popular, and there is evidence that these programs can be effective under the right conditions. In this brief, the body of research is detailed on the effects of three well-known college promise programs in the Midwest before discussing some of the key questions that policymakers and funders must consider when designing promise programs.
  - Tuition Control Policies: A Challenging Approach to College Affordability. This brief details how often tuition and fee controls are used and the body of research on whether they are effective in achieving their ultimate goal. Case examples are provided for three Midwestern states’ tuition and fee policies before offering recommendations for policymakers to consider when adopting tuition controls.

- **College Readiness and Teacher Preparation.**
  - The Relative Effectiveness of Traditional and Alternative Teacher Preparation Programs: A Review of Recent Research. Traditional teacher preparation generally refers to a four-year undergraduate program at a postsecondary institution. Alternative preparation programs, such as Teach for America (TFA), provide expedited pathways to licensure in order to rapidly increase the number of available teachers in a state. The expansion of expedited alternative preparation programs might be an efficient method for increasing the number of teachers, but many have questioned whether such a singular focus on efficiency sacrifices quality in terms of teacher skills and knowledge and, ultimately, student learning outcomes. This brief seeks to inform policies on teacher preparation by reviewing research on the effects of teacher certification and preparation programs in relation to student performance and teacher outcomes.
  - Improving Teacher Effectiveness: Does a Master’s Degree Matter?. Many school districts and states have long encouraged teachers to pursue graduate education. Advocates have argued that graduate education may
improve teacher effectiveness and raise the status of the teaching profession. The purpose of this brief is to examine the prevalence of graduate degrees among teachers in the United States and to summarize research on the relationship between teacher educational attainment and student achievement.

- The Effectiveness of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Certification Program: A Review of Recent Research. NBPTS programs provide a formal process for advancing the knowledge, skills, and practices of current teachers who already hold at least a bachelor's degree. In 2011, six states referenced NBPTS in the development of teacher standards. NBPTS certification involves “a lengthy, highly demanding process,” and thus many believe that certification will improve teacher effectiveness. This brief presents a review of recent research on the effects of NBPTS certification in relation to teacher outcomes (e.g., instructional knowledge, self-efficacy) and student achievement.
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Nathan Smith, Technology Purchasing Contract Manager, Indiana University, IN
