

North Dakota Highlights 2016-2017

North Dakota Key to Shaping the Compact's Direction

1. North Dakota passed authorizing legislation in 1999 to join the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), which was created in 1991.
2. A product of Midwestern legislators, MHEC was created through actions of the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments.
3. Tim Flakoll, provost for Tri-College University, is Governor Doug Burgum's designee. He currently serves as MHEC chair (2017-2018). He served terms as vice chair (2016-2017), and treasurer (2015-2016). He is also a former North Dakota state senator.
4. William Goetz, former chancellor of the North Dakota University System, served as MHEC chair from 2008-2009.
5. Current MHEC President Larry Isaak was chancellor of the North Dakota University System from 1994-2003.
6. Over 15 individuals from North Dakota provide significant direction for MHEC programs and services as commissioners, commissioner alternates, and members of program committees.

North Dakota Benefits from Participation in MHEC Programs and Contracts

1. Through use of MHEC's contracts and programs, North Dakota higher education institutions (including public and private not-for-profit), school districts, state and local governments, and students have achieved cost savings of over \$7.6 million since 1999, when North Dakota joined the Compact. In FY17, they achieved savings of over \$1 million.
2. North Dakota received a 10-fold return on its MHEC investment for FY17 when comparing total savings to the state's annual commitment (dues).
3. Student Insurance Solutions: MHECare, the student health collaborative, provides member institutions with sustainable student health insurance solutions and helps institutions support the student learning experience by providing over 33,000 students protection from unexpected medical expenses. The 11 campuses of the North Dakota University System participate in the collaborative covering 1,738 students.
4. Technology Contracts: In FY17, North Dakota entities realized over \$242,000 in cost savings by purchasing over \$2.4 million in technology hardware, software, and services. Cumulatively, they have saved over \$2.3 million. Serving on the Technologies Committee that determines which hardware, software, and services MHEC will pursue are: Jody French, Dirk Huggett, Darin King, and Jerry Rostad, all with the North Dakota University System.

Commissioners



Kyle Davison
State Senator
ND Legislative Assembly



Tim Flakoll
ND Governor's Designee
and Provost
Tri-College University



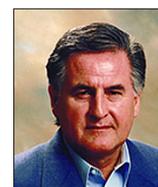
Mark Hagerott
Chancellor
ND University System



Dennis Johnson
State Representative
ND Legislative Assembly



Don Morton
Chair, State Board of Higher
Education
Fargo Site Leader Microsoft
(retired)



James L. Davis
President
Turtle Mountain
Community College
(Alternate)



Robert Lauf
Policy Advisor, Office of the
Governor, State of ND
(Alternate)

North Dakota Benefits from Participation in MHEC Programs and Contracts (continued)

5. Midwest Student Exchange Program: North Dakota students and families have saved over \$4 million in tuition through the Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP) since joining the program. In FY17, there were 1,607 persons from other MHEC states who came to North Dakota through this program, and North Dakota residents saved over \$534,000 by using the program. Brenda Zastoupil, North Dakota University System, serves on the MSEP Council.
6. State Authorization: North Dakota became the second state to become a member of the Midwestern-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M-SARA), and the first state to have all public and private institutions participating in the initiative. Richard Rothaus, North Dakota University System, and Lane Huber, Bismarck State College, serve on the M-SARA Regional Steering Committee. MHEC has estimated FY17 M-SARA savings to be \$336,000.

Potential Savings or Benefits of Program and Contract Participation for North Dakota

1. Entities in MHEC member states have saved over \$984 million since the Compact was founded in 1991, by using MHEC contracts and programs.
2. MHEC is a statutorily created entity in each member state. The Compact conducts competitive sourcing events and negotiates contract terms and conditions, thereby allowing flexibility for state and local entities to tailor MHEC contracts to their needs without having to incur the cost of rebidding for the products or services covered in MHEC contracts.
3. Since the membership is a state membership, not only can higher education institutions use MHEC's technology contracts, but school districts, state and local governments, and not-for-profit entities can also use most of the MHEC technology contracts.
4. Property Insurance: MHEC's Master Property Program insures over 170 campuses nationwide with property values exceeding \$94.8 billion dollars, saving participating MHEC member states over \$7.7 million in FY17. North Dakota does not participate since it has a State Fire and Tornado Fund for property insurance on its public entities.

Research Keeps North Dakotans Informed

1. MHEC provides reliable and objective evaluations of the PK-16 system in North Dakota.
 - » **Higher Education in Focus: Selected Performance Indicators.** This biennial report provides key performance indicators for North Dakota relevant to the goal of increasing educational attainment. Performance indicators are categorized within six dimensions: Preparation, Participation, Affordability, Completion, Equity, and Finance.
 - » **The Effectiveness and Efficiency of Postsecondary Institutions in the United States: 2010-2012 Baseline Results.** This brief evaluates the extent to which postsecondary institutions in North Dakota are effective and efficient. Institutions are deemed effective if their graduation rates exceed what would be expected given the types of students served and other attributes. Institutional efficiency is estimated as the difference between actual educational expenditures and the expenditures that would be predicted from degree production levels, faculty attributes, and location. The report helps policymakers in North Dakota identify highly effective institutions that make efficient use of taxpayer dollars and promote closer examination of the policies and practices that constitute their highly effective campuses.
2. MHEC informs policymaking on college readiness and teacher preparation in North Dakota.
 - » **Faculty Qualification Policies and Strategies Relevant to Dual Enrollment Programs: An Analysis of States and Regional Accreditation Agencies.** This report examines state and regional accreditation policies relevant to faculty qualifications for dual enrollment programs. The report informs policymaking in North Dakota by identifying the key attributes of policies across the nation and describing some of the state strategies for increasing the number of in-service teachers qualified to teach dual enrollment courses.
 - » **Blueprint for College Readiness.** This report helps K-12 and higher education leaders in North Dakota determine which policies should be adopted to promote college readiness. Policy recommendations are made in relation to college and career readiness definitions, college readiness standards and assessments, graduation requirements, accountability, admissions standards, statewide remedial and placement policies, transfer, and a data pipeline and process for reporting.
 - » **The Impact of Graduate Education on Teacher Effectiveness: Does a Master's Degree Matter?** This brief examines the prevalence of graduate degrees among teachers in the United States and summarizes research on the relationship between teacher educational attainment and student achievement.

Research Keeps North Dakotans Informed (continued)

3. MHEC helps policymakers in North Dakota evaluate options for improving college affordability.
 - » **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.
4. MHEC provides summaries of the latest research for institutional leaders and analysts in North Dakota to identify best practices in improving student success.
 - » **Financial Aid** summarizes key findings from research to inform institutional policy regarding institutional grant aid and work-study programs.
 - » **Faculty Policy** examines key issues that confront institutional leaders in creating faculty policies conducive to student success, including employment status, faculty roles and reward systems, and faculty development.
 - » **Developmental Education** provides a summary of research on policy and program reforms that may improve developmental education and the outcomes of underprepared students, including establishing appropriate program requirements, refining the student placement process, improving the quality of developmental curricula, and incorporating support services.
 - » **Software Solutions** provides an overview of student success software and summarizes findings from the nascent body of student outcomes research. Three types of software solutions are examined: academic planning systems, task engagement systems, and early alert systems. Several campus practices are then identified that may facilitate software adoption.
5. MHEC informs policy and practice on the preparation of college graduates for gainful employment.
 - » **The Occupational Relevance of a College Education: An Examination of Education-Job Match among Bachelor's Degree Recipients.** This research brief provides a national account of whether recent college alumni attain employment congruent with their academic major, reasons for working outside of one's major field, and possible consequences for job satisfaction. The brief encourages policymakers in North Dakota and elsewhere to develop indicators of education-job match that reflect the relevance of a college education for formal employment; implement "Tuning" programs when necessary; raise admissions standards for majors with projected market saturation; and increase student intentionality in the major selection process.
 - » **Transparent Pathways, Clear Outcomes: Using Disciplinary Tuning to Improve Teaching, Learning, and Student Success.** "Tuning" is a process through which faculty members create shared understandings of the knowledge and transferable skills students in specific academic disciplines and professional fields must demonstrate upon completion of their degrees. The process helps to clarify to students, parents, and policymakers what degree holders know, understand, and are able to do.

Opportunity to Discuss the Issues in North Dakota and Convene with Peers

1. **Military Credit:** The Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit (MCMC) is a forum for states to exchange information and best practices around translating competencies acquired through military training and experiences into milestones toward completing a college degree or earning a certificate or license. MCMC has provided grant funds of \$30,000 to North Dakota to support their state efforts. The North Dakota University System (NDUS) core technology staff modified their student information system based on best practices gleaned from the MCMC community. All 11 NDUS campuses have begun transitioning to a single, university system module allowing more efficient responses for data. Lisa Johnson, NDUS, serves on the MCMC Steering Committee. Additional North Dakotans serve on work groups.
2. Based on the many ideas that MHEC Commissioners and Commissioner Alternates submitted in late August of 2015, a survey was created with potential policy topics for MHEC research, program initiatives, and professional development. Survey respondents evaluated the need for additional knowledge on various topics, identified the top three topics of interest, and selected the most helpful resource formats. The collective results were used to determine which policy topics MHEC should prioritize. Commissioners at the MHEC annual commission meeting voted to focus on affordability initiatives.
3. MHEC convenes institutional leaders and policymakers to discuss critical issues confronting North Dakota, the region, and the nation.
 - » MHEC Commissioners were active in discussions in 2015 about the new Higher Learning Commission (HLC) faculty qualifications revised policy which was to take effect in July 2016. This policy especially impacted smaller and rural school districts. Considering MHEC's efforts, the HLC allowed for institutions with dual credit programs to apply for an extension to implement the new policy by 2022.
4. During the legislative session MHEC convenes a group of state leaders including MHEC commissioners, legislative leaders, higher education leaders, K-12 representatives, and executive branch officials to discuss MHEC programs and also to receive input about MHEC services and state issues.
5. Since 2004 Larry Isaak, MHEC president, has appeared before several higher education committees and the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) to discuss North Dakota trends and policy information. In October 2015 he presented to the Interim Higher Education Committee, providing a history of the SBHE and the North Dakota University System and Principles for Good Governance. In October 2017, he presented on higher education financing models.
6. The locations of MHEC commission meetings rotate among the member states, showcasing each state's education initiatives to an audience comprised of Midwestern legislators and education leaders. MHEC held its November 2009 Annual Policy Summit and Commission Meeting in Fargo and the June 2003 Executive Committee meeting in Bismarck. MHEC's Annual Commission Meeting and Policy Forum will be held in November 2018 will be held in Fargo.
7. All travel and lodging expenses for commissioners who attend Compact meetings are paid by the Midwestern Higher Education Compact.

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