

Indiana Highlights 2020-2021

Indiana's Engagement

- 1. 26-Year Partnership.** Indiana enacted authorizing legislation in 1996 to join the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), which was created in 1991.
- 2. About MHEC.** MHEC brings together higher education leaders and policymakers from Indiana and 11 other Midwestern states to develop and support best practices, collaborative efforts, and cost-saving opportunities. Through these efforts, it works to ensure strong, equitable postsecondary educational opportunities and outcomes for all.
- 3. Indiana Leadership.** Commissioners, commissioner alternates, and members of advisory program committees provide direction for MHEC programs and services.

How the Compact Benefits Indiana

- 1. \$6.75 in Savings.** In 2021, Indiana colleges, universities, school districts, and state and local governments realized more than \$5.90M in cost savings through MHEC's contracts and programs, while Indiana citizens saved \$840,000 through the Midwest Student Exchange Program.
- 2. Return on Indiana's Investment.** The State of Indiana received a 51-fold return on its annual compact membership commitment of \$115,000.
 - » **Technology Contracts.** Indiana institutions saved more than \$4.38M by purchasing \$44.36M in technology hardware, software, and services through MHEC-negotiated contracts.
 - » **Distance Education.** By participating in the Midwestern-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M-SARA), Indiana saved approximately \$1.52M. Without M-SARA, institutions must undertake costly state-by-state, institution-by-institution approach.
 - » **Tuition Reciprocity.** Indiana students and their families who participated in the Midwest Student Exchange program saved more than \$840,000 in tuition.
- 3. Credential Transparency.** Indiana is participating in MHEC's initiative to map its state's credential data with a national registry that makes information on credentials leading to careers, more transparent, accessible, and consistent. The Indiana Commission for Higher Education has been a leader on this work, publishing over 3,000 credentials including all that are offered by the public two- and four-year institutions, as well as some private colleges.
- 4. Open Educational Resources.** Indiana held a statewide Senior Leaders Seminar on OER in partnership with the Open Education Network (OEN) which was sponsored by MHEC in September 2021. The seminar focused on giving higher education decision-makers across Indiana an overview of open education, why it matters and to whom. Also described were ways to align open education with strategic priorities, and strategies to support and sustain open education's growth.

Commissioners



Kurt Dykstra
President & CEO
Independent Colleges of
Indiana



Jon Ford
State Senator
Indiana General
Assembly



Jack Jordan
State Representative
Indiana General
Assembly



Ronald S. Rochon
President
University of Southern
Indiana



Ken Sauer
Sr Associate Commissioner
and Chief Academic Officer
Indiana Commission for
Higher Education

Midwestern Higher Education Compact Priorities

INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY, & EFFECTIVENESS

The Compact serves as an incubator, providing a platform to discuss opportunities and pilot potential solutions.

- 1. Innovative Best Practices.** MHEC shares effective solutions to challenges identified by policymakers and higher education leaders. In 2021, discussion topics included rebounding from the pandemic, federal relief, and campus mental health.
- 2. Open Educational Resources.** MHEC coordinates efforts to expand access to openly licensed textbooks and learning materials accessible via the Internet at little or no cost to students.
- 3. Credential Transparency.** MHEC is bringing states together to create an online, standardized clearinghouse of credentials linked to career pathways to better serve students, educators, and employers.
- 4. Timely Research & Policy.** Member states direct and receive high-priority access to research on pressing topics such as college readiness, affordability and finance, and student success.
- 5. Interactive Dashboard.** MHEC's online tool provides state-by-state data on key performance indicators including preparation, participation, affordability, completion, finance, and workforce.

DEVELOPING COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS TO REGIONAL PROBLEMS

MHEC takes on projects and issues that are too cumbersome or expensive for one state to do alone, working jointly to make the Midwest region stronger and more competitive.

- 1. Convenings.** MHEC convenes diverse leaders to discuss and identify critical issues in higher education. MHEC also brings together campus experts including CIOs, risk managers, and campus health leaders to address shared challenges and opportunities.
- 2. State Visits.** MHEC leaders visit each state annually during its legislative session to learn more about and address key issues affecting the state's economy and higher education.
- 3. Military Credit.** MHEC serves veterans in the region by leading efforts to translate competencies acquired through military service into meaningful credit toward a college degree, certificate, or license.
- 4. Tuition Reciprocity.** MHEC provides a Midwest tuition reciprocity program whereby public institutions agree to charge students in participating states no more than 150 percent of their in-state resident tuition and private institutions offer a 10 percent reduction in their tuition rates. This program saves families money and keeps students in the Midwest.
- 5. Distance Education.** MHEC manages a regional approach to authorizing Midwestern states and institutions to regulate, approve, and oversee the delivery of interstate online education. This approach, part of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA), provides a streamlined process that results in cost savings for postsecondary institutions and improved access to online education for students.

DRIVING COST SAVINGS & BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

MHEC programs and contracts result in tremendous cost savings for institutions, states, and students. The Compact solves key business problems and protects investment in higher education by collaborating and reducing risk.

- 1. Competitive Sourcing.** MHEC leads extensive competitive bidding and RFP processes that save members time and money while making it easier to purchase insurance, technology, and other goods and services. Institutions can tailor these negotiated contracts to their needs.
- 2. Technology Contracts.** MHEC leverages the combined hardware, software, and services volume of campuses and local governments in member states to reach favorable agreements with technology vendors. In FY21 member states saved an estimated \$34.19M through technology purchasing contracts.
- 3. Cyber Insurance.** MHEC offers institutions cyber security insurance and assesses vulnerabilities in security controls, threats, and financial exposure.
- 4. Property Insurance.** MHEC offers comprehensive property coverage that can be tailored to the needs of specific college campuses. Its Master Property Program reduces campus insurance costs while improving asset protection. In FY21, the program saved member states \$4.32M.
- 5. Student Health Solutions.** MHEC offers institutions options for fully insured, school-sponsored health plans. MHEC's responsive approach resulted in the recent addition of virtual mental health services for students.