

- Indiana University Northwest collects a \$900,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to address students' basic needs, such as food, housing, transportation, and mental health services. This funding will support the RedHawks CARE program to provide stability and security for students, more than two-thirds of whom receive financial aid. The program will create new campus positions, collaborate with external agencies, and expand resources including the on-campus food pantry and transportation assistance.

- Ivy Tech Community College's Indianapolis campus is working to earn the Collegiate Purple Star designation from the state, which honors institutions that provide exceptional support to veterans and military-affiliated families. A dedicated committee, led by Assistant Director of Veteran and Military Services **Jason Rodriguez**, is spearheading these efforts.

- To achieve this designation, Ivy Tech must meet criteria across eight categories, including marketing, student support services, and community engagement. Current initiatives include hosting military recognition events, maintaining a Veterans Resource Center, and fostering a Student Veterans Association. These efforts align with Ivy Tech's mission of student success.

IN Policy . . .

- State universities – particularly Purdue University – could be forced to change their admissions procedures to admit more in-state students under legislation authored by Sen. **Greg Goode** (R) of Terre Haute, vice chair of the Senate Committee on Education and Career Development. SB 448 calls for setting a cap on the number of incoming freshmen in a state educational institution that are not residents of Indiana with at least 50% needing to be residents.

- Purdue could be most impacted by the legislation because of the amount of out-of-state students the university admits. We've reported previously that Purdue has enrolled more out-of-state undergraduate and graduate students than in-state students total every year since 2021. Within the last year as well, there have been growing concerns about Purdue admitting more students than it can handle on its West Lafayette campus – recording record enrollments as of recent, but also not have enough housing for all of those students.

- Because of that, in the fall Purdue announced plans to alter its acceptance rates due to insufficient accommodations for all of its students in West Lafayette. How much that will affect resident or non-resident students – or for how long – remains to be seen. We're already seeing these plans in motion, as we mentioned earlier in this newsletter, Purdue is working to manage the potential influx of students for the fall 2025 semester by issuing deferrals.

- Purdue University Director of Government Relations **Kendra Leatherman** details that they are neutral on the proposal in SB 448, Leatherman explained that the university believes in “the intent of the legislation” to give in-state residents a fair shot at admissions to state universities, but it doesn't take the full story into account.

- She argued that percentages might not reflect efforts to increase total enrollment and that universities have no control over whether students choose the university after being admitted. “We don't think its best policy to require holding the university accountable for a choice that's not totally within our control,” Leatherman said. She offers possible options and other avenues to improve resident admissions such as requiring universities to have continued growth of their number of residents without decrease over a specified period.

- Sen. Goode, who used to be the chief lobbyist for Indiana State University, is no stranger to the higher ed arena – so it didn't come as a surprise that he expressed some hesitation in this specific provision in the bill. He revealed to the committee last week that the percentage piece might not be there to stay and could be changed, and he is open to ideas.

- Sen. Goode explains that the idea came from lawmakers hearing complaints from constituents that it should not be difficult for Indiana residents to get accepted into one of the state universities – perhaps in response to conversations about Purdue changing its admissions rates. “We invest billions of dollars on campuses and construction, and I have heard some frustration from individuals who have sons and daughters who have very competitive scores that are denied at some of our universities.” He adds, though, “I struggle with mandating enrollment” and that he understands talented students want to come to Indiana to go to school. Goode questions, “can we encourage our institutions and say, let's make educating in-state students a priority?”

- Another aspect of this in-state enrollment provision to keep in mind – universities bring in more money in tuition from non-resident students who don't pay the lower in-state tuition rates. The ratios could continue to shift if universities find themselves requiring more cash that the state can't provide.

- Because of these concerns from the bill author and Purdue, this section of the bill is causing it to be held up in committee until changes are made. SB 448 was held for a second week in a row on Wednesday to give more time for Sen. Goode to draft an amendment. He tells us he plans to have an amendment next week to address the in-state enrollment language specifically.

- What else is in the bill? Beyond these specific enrollment aspects, SB 448 also outlines several other higher education-related provisions. Under the bill, the Indiana Commission for Higher

Education would be required to prepare recommendations regarding the percentage of students that institutions need to enroll to meet workforce demands, which will then be submitted to the governor and the legislative council.

□ The Indiana Management Performance Hub could also see new changes based on the legislation. SB 448 would add requirements to MPH, including adding an annual report on credentials for job openings and establishment of a plan to develop market-driven buildable credentials and qualifications which will then be sent to the General Assembly.

□ SB 448 would also include measures for establishing credits for prior learning, which Commissioner for Higher Education **Chris Lowery** explains to the committee could be an area where Indiana could have the potential to lead the charge in the nation.

□ There are also changes to the wording for ICHE from the discretionary “may” to “shall” approve or disapprove certain branches, campuses, centers, new colleges, new schools, degrees, or programs.

□ As a part of that process, before ICHE can make a decision on a degree or program, they would have to consider proposed curriculum, labor market supply and demand, current or projected academic and career figures (enrollment, program

cost, job placement rate, student debt rate, graduation rate, and compensation within three, five, and 10 years), work-based learning requirements, and options for non-traditional students to receive credit. The review by ICHE must also be undertaken at least once every 10 years.

□ The plan would also have to identify at least three priority employment sectors that will include the knowledge and skills necessary to have a career in that sector.

□ The model for the sectors is based on the apprenticeship model in Sweden, whose program sectors, known as “verticals,” have been built up over the decades. **Ross Teare** of the Indiana Bankers Association and **David Becker** of First Internet Bank discussed the apprenticeship model of a current banking apprenticeship program, which was highlighted as one possible priority sector. Other possibilities, according to Becker, include life sciences, industry and manufacturing, construction, health services, and insurance. For Indiana, the hope is to continue to build upon these verticals in the coming years.

• SB 74, which would extend Indiana’s Lifeline Law to the person needing medical attention, passes the full Senate 43-3. Some concerns emerged during floor debate over the bill language not restricting this extension just to people under the age of 21. Bill author Sen. **Ron Alting** (R) of Lafayette vowed to take a look at the oversight and clean up the language in the House.

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