

Checkout what district was featured in Dr. Jenner's Superintendent's email updates this week...Fwd: An Update From the Indiana Department of Education for April 16, 2021

Dr. Peggy Buffington <peggyb@hobart.k12.in.us>

Fri 4/16/2021 6:20 AM

To: All Employees <AllEmployees@hobart.k12.in.us>; Board of School Trustees <SchoolBoard@hobart.k12.in.us>

See below

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Indiana Department of Education <idoe@public.govdelivery.com>
Date: April 16, 2021 at 6:01:33 AM CDT
To: "Dr. Peggy Buffington" <peggyb@hobart.k12.in.us>
Subject: An Update From the Indiana Department of Education for April 16, 2021
Reply-To: idoe@public.govdelivery.com



Dr. Katie Jenner
Secretary of Education

Working Together for Student Success

A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner

Following last Friday's newsletter, our team has enjoyed seeing your videos, reading your messages, and hearing from you directly about **why** you chose this purposeful, difference-making education profession.

Regardless of who we've spoken to, the conversation has inevitably centered around our North Star: our students...and more specifically, our ability, in the K-12 space, to improve student outcomes.

We know that there is a direct link between a person's educational attainment and their quality of life, health, employment, and living wage. Across Indiana, our K-12 schools are partnering with institutions of higher education, as well as leaders in business and industry, to provide pathways and opportunities for students that are intentional and focus not just on the student today but on the student's lifelong trajectory.

As mentioned in a previous message, one of these intentional pathways is the [Indiana College Core](#) (formerly known as the Statewide Transfer General Education Core). Through this opportunity, students can take a 30-credit hour block of general education college-level work (while still in high school!) that transfers to any public (and some private) higher education institution in Indiana. The Indiana College Core may include a combination of courses in dual credit, Advanced Placement (AP), and International Baccalaureate (IB) with the final completion awarded by a higher education institution.

Currently, one in five Indiana high schools offer the Indiana College Core, and our data shows this number increasing as more educational leaders are learning about this opportunity.

Our team at IDOE and our partners with the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE) have renewed our commitment to helping schools implement the Indiana College Core with a focus on providing access to ALL students. It's important that we work together to promote this opportunity and how it ties into our **why**.



A great example of this can be found in the School City of Hobart, where they strive to ensure all “Brickies” have equitable access to early college and career opportunities through Hobart University (HU). HU works with institutions of higher education, like Ivy Tech and Purdue University Northwest, along with community partners like NIPSCO and St. Mary Medical Center. In the words of Superintendent Dr. Peggy Buffington, through the Indiana College Core, “Brickies are soaring to success towards their future career.”

During the 2019-2020 school year, HU students earned a combined 7,704 college credits, with an estimated savings of over \$1.1 million! This year, many of their graduates will proceed with one year of college under their belts and stackable credentials, and the program continues to grow. In fact, in just one year's time, HU anticipates they will more than quadruple the number of seniors eligible to earn the Indiana College Core.

When asked what this early college experience means to her, one Hobart student in the class of 2021 shared:

“I decided to enroll myself in dual credit classes not only to challenge my academics but also to alleviate the financial burden that my parents will undergo. Taking dual credit classes has helped prepare me for college in numerous ways. Additionally, dual credit classes have permitted me to graduate with the Indiana College Core which is one year of general classes done through high school. Instead of entering college as a freshman, I'll be entering as a sophomore. One of the greatest things about Hobart University is that all of the classes are free to take! I'm beyond grateful for the opportunities Hobart University through Ivy Tech has provided for my future.”

With students as our North Star, I personally believe there is no better way to illustrate the value of the Indiana College Core than to hear directly from the students it serves. I want to commend this student and all of her peers for taking advantage of these impressive learning opportunities, and also applaud the Hobart University team for making it possible. Through their work, students can see and achieve their greatest potential!

As always, thank you for your leadership and impact...and please, continue to share your **why** by submitting your video today to cbearsch1@doe.in.gov.

COVID-19 Updates - Academic Implications and Financial Information

COMING SOON: Partnering to Support Stronger Transitions for Students

As the spring semester winds down, and we continue to identify ways to partner on accelerating student learning this summer, IDOE is excited to collaborate with the Indiana Commission for Higher Education on a new initiative to help thousands of Hoosier students, on the cusp of completing the Indiana College Core