Charting the Future for Indiana's Colleges and Universities

Large-Scale Projects Grants

Through its initiative, Charting the Future for Indiana's Colleges and Universities, Lilly Endowment is making 12 grants to support nine large-scale projects that seek to address a range of significant challenges and opportunities that many Indiana colleges and universities face. Several of the projects involve collaboration with community organizations, K-12 schools, employers, and other colleges and universities. The grants, which range from $2.7 million to $10 million, total nearly $70 million and represent the third and final phase of Charting the Future.

The Endowment launched Charting the Future in 2019 to help leaders of the state's 38 colleges and universities engage in thoughtful discernment about the future of their institutions and advance strategic planning and implementation efforts to address key challenges and opportunities. Earlier rounds of funding to all of the schools supported planning grants approved in December 2019 and implementation grants approved in June and September 2020, which funded strategies to strengthen the schools' abilities to educate students and to strengthen institutional vitality. Learn more about these grants _here_.

The colleges and universities that will benefit from the latest grants and summaries of the funded efforts are as follows:

BUTLER UNIVERSITY

Butler Ventures

> Butler Ventures is designed to meet the evolving needs of adult learners and employers and enable the university to innovate and expand its mission. Building on its Charting the Future Phase 2 grant to establish the Transformation Lab, Butler will create a Division of Professional Studies and EdVision Ventures to expand the reach of Butler and encourage entrepreneurial opportunities in collaboration with other education organizations to create and support new models for postsecondary and workforce learning.

DEPAUW UNIVERSITY, ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS COLLEGE

MINDful College Connections

> MINDful College Connections will be a shared-resource consortium designed to improve and expand mental health resources for students. MINDful College Connections will enable the institutions to more efficiently and effectively focus on preventative care strategies and increase student access to mental health services.

GOSHEN COLLEGE

Expanding Inclusive Education in Elkhart County

Goshen College will engage students and educators at school corporations in Elkhart and Goshen; support college faculty as they develop inclusion and community engagement strategies to reach Elkhart County learners of all ages; create new internships focused on community engagement and restorative justice with Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart; and develop a joint Master of Social Work degree program with Bluffton University, a Mennonite-affiliated school in Ohio.

INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Sycamores Achieve

Sycamores Achieve will be a new comprehensive effort to improve retention and graduation rates for first-generation students, students of color, and students who qualify for federal Pell grants. Indiana State will collaborate with Ivy Tech Community College – Terre Haute (ITCC-TH) to support students with more intensive, developmental and holistic advising to improve retention and four-year graduation rates. Indiana State and ITCC-TH will work together to align services and curricula to expand the schools' Pathway to Blue program, an initiative for eligible students to start their first year at ITCC-TH, take classes and live on Indiana State's campus, and if successful, transition to enrollment at Indiana State as sophomores.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Indiana Digital Crossroads

Indiana Digital Crossroads (IDC) is a new statewide network of regional hubs that use data science to bring together students, faculty, industry partners and community leaders. These groups will collaborate to solve regional challenges and help manufacturing companies adopt cutting-edge technologies in automation and data exchange. Students, regardless of major, will have opportunities to learn data science skills through immersive engagement with Indiana companies that lead to careers in Indiana. Through IDC, Purdue will expand opportunities for data science skills training for first-generation and Black undergraduate students who often lack access to such training. Purdue will also develop and expand data science educational opportunities for high school students.

UNIVERSITY OF INDIANAPOLIS, ANDERSON UNIVERSITY, INDIANA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, MARTIN UNIVERSITY, SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS COLLEGE, AND UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA

Improving Student Retention Through Data Analytics

This grant will support a collaborative project designed for University of Indianapolis, Anderson University, Indiana Institute of Technology, Martin University, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and University of Southern Indiana to use predictive analytics to improve student retention and graduation rates. These schools will develop customized predictive models to identify students who may leave their schools and their possible reasons for leaving. This grant will allow the schools to provide appropriate interventions which will enable the schools to more effectively utilize their resources to retain students.

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF EVANSVILLE

Central Shared Services Organization

Valparaiso University and the University of Evansville will collaborate with Drake University in Iowa and North Central College in Illinois in establishing the Central Shared Services Organization (CSSO) for administrative and technology functions. CSSO will enable all four schools to standardize and share business processes in finance, accounts payable, general ledger, human resources and payroll in an effort to reduce administrative costs at the institutions.

VINCENNES UNIVERSITY

Developing a Workforce Ecosystem for Industry 4.0 in Indiana

Vincennes University will establish the Center for Advanced Robotics and Automation to provide robotics training that prepares students for careers in manufacturing and logistics. The Center will expand Vincennes' ongoing efforts to help K-12 and college students develop technical skills that will help them become successfully employed in Indiana. Vincennes will focus on a growing technology known as collaborative robots, or 'cobots.' The technology helps manufacturing and logistics companies integrate automation by operating robots alongside their employees.

WABASH COLLEGE

Restoring Hope, Restoring Trust

Wabash will further develop its approach to enhancing campus climate and expanding community collaborations with respect to diversity, equity and inclusion. Wabash will develop summer residence programs to recruit more men of color; refine its curriculum focusing on social justice; provide support for research that is relevant to students of color; and engage the campus and Crawfordsville communities with a variety of cultural programs and service opportunities. Wabash aims to recruit and retain more students of color, improve the experience for all students and graduate more skilled, diverse and culturally competent leaders.