

# IOWA HIGHLIGHTS

## 2023-2024

### OVERVIEW

Iowa enacted authorizing legislation in 2005 to join the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC). Over the past 20 years, commissioners, commissioner alternates, and members of advisory committees from Iowa have provided and continue to provide important governance and strategic direction for MHEC.

### HOW MHEC BENEFITS IOWA

- ▶ **\$3.82M in total annual savings.** Iowa colleges, universities, school districts, state and local governments, and students and their families realized more than \$3.82M in cost savings through MHEC's contracts and programs.
  - » *Technology Contracts.* Iowa entities saved \$355,601 through MHEC contracts with Dell, Oracle, Xerox, CampusGuard, Lenovo, and others.
  - » *Distance Education.* By participating in the Midwestern-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M-SARA), Iowa saved approximately \$3.46M and avoided a costly state-by-state, institution-by-institution approach.
- ▶ **Strong return on investment.** Iowa received a 33-fold return on annual compact membership commitment of \$115,000.
- ▶ **Open Educational Resources.** MHEC supported Iowa with grant funds to convene a community of practice for faculty and staff on the topic of open educational resources.
- ▶ **Professional Development and Support.** Four Iowa leaders attended MHEC's FAFSA Summit this past year, and two technology leaders engaged in MHEC's free professional development and networking.

### COMMISSIONERS



**Jacob Bossman**  
Iowa Legislature,  
State Representative



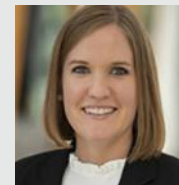
**Jesse Green**  
Iowa Legislature,  
State Senator



**Janna Hofer**  
Iowa Association of  
Community College  
Trustees, Past Board  
Chair



**Olivia M.A. Madison**  
Serves at the  
Pleasure of the  
Governor



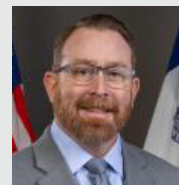
**Greta Rouse**  
Iowa Board of  
Regents, President  
Pro Tem



**Andrew J. Baumert**  
Iowa Association of  
Independent Colleges  
and Universities,  
Vice President of  
Marketing and  
Outreach (alternate)



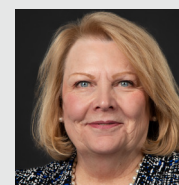
**Timothy Fizgibbon**  
Serves at the  
Pleasure of the  
Governor  
(alternate)



**David Ford**  
Iowa College Aid,  
Iowa Department of  
Education, Bureau  
Chief (alternate)



**Monica Kurth**  
Iowa Legislature,  
State Representative  
(alternate)



**Cindy Winckler**  
Iowa Legislature,  
State Senator (alternate)



The Midwestern Higher Education Compact seeks to improve individual career readiness and regional economic vitality through collective problem-solving and partnerships that strengthen postsecondary education. To achieve this vision, the Compact focuses its work in three strategic priority areas:

## **INCUBATE**

*Advance innovation, efficiency & effectiveness*

- » Serve as an incubator, studying challenging topics where MHEC can play a valuable role and piloting potential solutions.
- » Lead in expanding use and utility of open educational resources.
- » Respond rapidly to member states' requests for research on pressing topics such as workforce development, loan forgiveness programs, and college affordability.
- » Provide state-by-state data through an interactive dashboard on key performance indicators including preparation, participation, affordability, completion, finance, and workforce.

## **LAUNCH**

*Develop collaborative solutions to regional problems and opportunities*

- » Take on projects, issues and opportunities that are too big for one state to do alone, working jointly to improve higher education and to strengthen the Midwest region.
- » Convene and connect higher education leaders to navigate timely and critical issues facing higher education, such as FAFSA, distance education delivery, and tuition reciprocity.
- » Help Midwestern states navigate accreditation standards to meet the significant increase in demand for dual and concurrent enrollment.

## **SAVE**

*Drive cost savings & business solutions*

- » Leverage the combined technology needs of higher education institutions in member states to reach favorable agreements with technology vendors that result in tremendous time and cost savings.
- » Explore opportunities to serve risk management needs.
- » Offer affordable solutions that improve student well-being.