



2023-2024

# ANNUAL REPORT

*to the Member States*

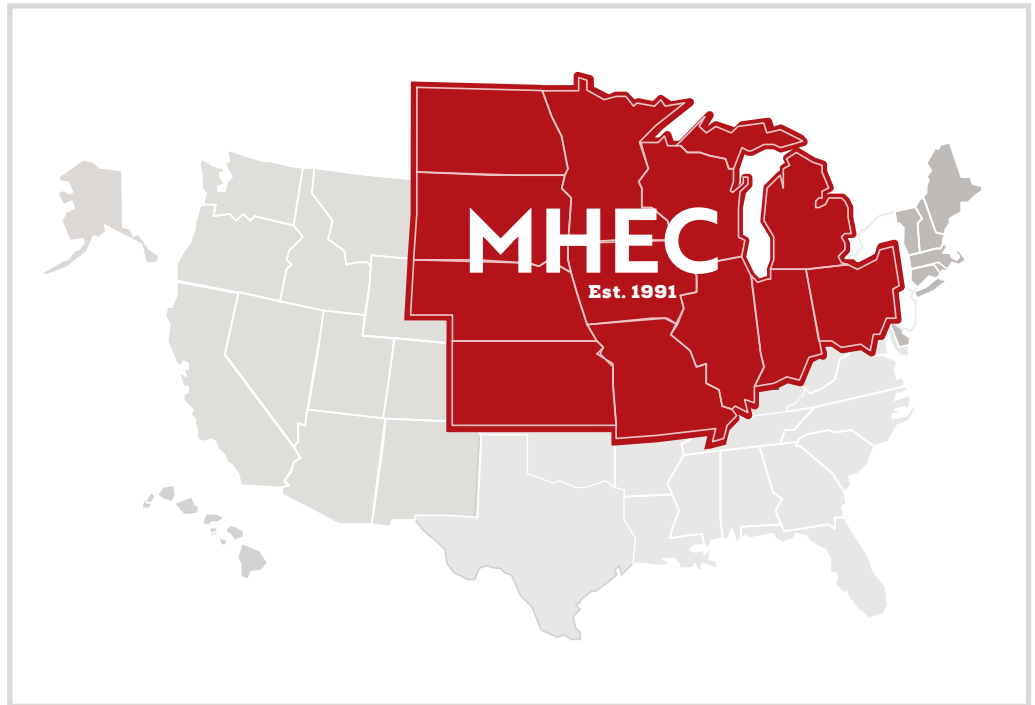


# MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

The Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) strengthens postsecondary education in its 12 member states through cost-savings initiatives and collaborative solutions informed by research and the expertise of regional leaders. One of four regional higher education compacts in the United States, MHEC:

- Advances innovation, efficiency and effectiveness by piloting solutions to pressing issues and conducting research to produce actionable ideas.
- Develops collaborative solutions to regional problems and leverages opportunities to make the Midwest region stronger.
- Drives significant cost savings and helps solve key business problems in higher education through programs and contracts.

MHEC was established in the early 1990s through the enactment of legislation recommended by the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments and is funded by member state commitments, program income, and foundation grants. MHEC's contracts, research, programs and convenings are available to all public and private nonprofit institutions of higher education in the Midwest.



## MEMBER STATES

**Illinois**

**Indiana**

**Iowa**

**Kansas**

**Michigan**

**Minnesota**

**Missouri**

**Nebraska**

**North Dakota**

**Ohio**

**South Dakota**

**Wisconsin**

# COMING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN HIGHER EDUCATION

Greetings,

As we reflect upon the past year, we extend our gratitude to our commissioners, committee members, advisory groups, and partner organizations from our 12 member states who worked alongside MHEC in 2023-2024 to drive progress.

MHEC is a unique organization where higher education leaders, policymakers, and other midwestern leaders — regardless of differences — come together to develop and share ways to strengthen postsecondary education. The breadth and depth of experience of our members is one of our greatest strengths, and we are grateful for what each of you contributes to this work.

We are pleased to share this annual report summarizing our efforts and accomplishments over the past year. In 2023/24, we:

- Secured a second round of funding from the Hewlett Foundation to continue our leadership in expanding open educational resources, which bring innovation and savings to students and higher education institutions.
- Responded to the issues related to the rollout of the new FAFSA by hosting a Midwestern summit and follow-up engagement convenings that ensured our states have the support they need on this topic.
- Supported states as they respond to the tremendous demand for concurrent enrollment.
- Initiated a review of the Midwest Student Exchange Program to understand how it might better support tuition reciprocity in our region and help institutions advance enrollment goals.

MHEC continues to drive cost savings and business solutions.

- We saw significant utilization and revenue growth with our technology contracts, which help institutions and states save time and money.
- Our student health solutions contracts continue to grow.
- We launched a feasibility study to explore opportunities to best serve risk management needs of our states and higher education institutions.

In the coming year, we know that artificial intelligence, college affordability, declining enrollment, and workforce alignment with higher education will be on MHEC's agenda as we embark upon a new strategic planning process.

The engagement of our commissioners, higher education experts, policymakers, and economic leaders is critical as we address these many issues and opportunities. Thank you for your commitment to MHEC as we continue to develop collaborative solutions, drive cost savings, and advance innovation and efficiency in higher education.

Sincerely,



Susan G. Heegaard  
MHEC President



Barbara W. Ballard, Ph.D.  
MHEC Chair, 2023-2024  
Minority Caucus Chair, Kansas House of Representatives

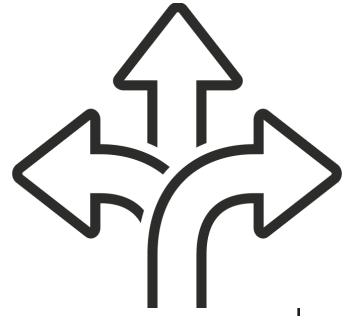


**SUSAN G. HEEGAARD**



**BARBARA BALLARD**

# 2023-2024 BY THE NUMBERS



## TOTAL SAVINGS

# \$99.2M

MHEC-RELATED SAVINGS FOR STATES, INSTITUTIONS, STUDENTS, AND FAMILIES

## \$32.2M

FOR STATES AND INSTITUTIONS THROUGH MHEC TECHNOLOGY CONTRACTS

## \$37.1M

FOR HIGHER ED INSTITUTIONS THROUGH MIDWESTERN STATE RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS

## \$29.8M

FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES THROUGH THE MIDWEST STUDENT EXCHANGE



## +10.8%

Increase in usage of MHEC technology contracts

## +7.5%

Increase in usage of MHEC student health contracts



## 1,500+

Leaders engaged by MHEC to help states navigate new professional licensure compliance changes

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023-2024

The Midwestern Higher Education Compact focused its work this past year in three strategic priority areas.

## #1 INCUBATE

Advance innovation, efficiency & effectiveness

- » Led regionally and nationally in expanding use and utility of open educational resources (OER); convened summit; published best practices guide.
- » Conducted data and technology assessment to improve data quality, automation, accessibility, workflow, and management.
- » Completed staff role audit and hired three new staff to position organization for growth.
- » Expanded commissioner participation in key committees.

## #2: LAUNCH

Develop collaborative solutions to regional problems and opportunities

- » Convened states and higher education institutions to help them navigate timely and critical issues facing higher education.
- » Guided states through FAFSA challenges through FAFSA Summit and continued convenings.
- » Advocated and amplified the needs of the region in national State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) policy revisions.
- » Helped states navigate new professional licensure compliance changes, engaging 1500+ leaders in learning webinars and state-specific support sessions.
- » Convened group to assess the Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP) to support tuition reciprocity in our region and help institutions advance enrollment goals.





# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023-2024

## #3: SAVE

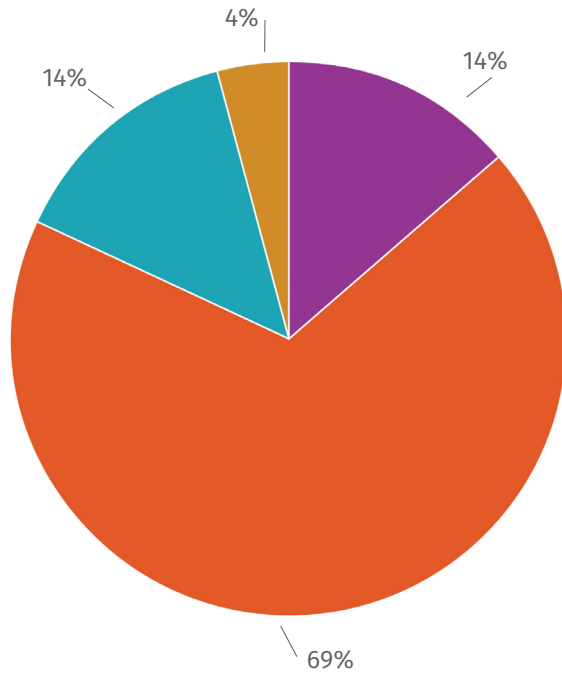
### Drive cost savings & business solutions

- » Drove \$69 million in savings for states and institutions through contracts and distance education reciprocity agreements, plus \$30 million for students and families through the Midwest Student Exchange Program.
- » Expanded understanding and utilization of technology contracts that helped states and institutions and states save time and collectively \$32 million.
- » Embarked on captive feasibility study to explore opportunities to best serve risk management needs of our states and higher education institutions.
- » Audited student health programs to better meet the needs of higher education; expanded use of student health insurance contracts.



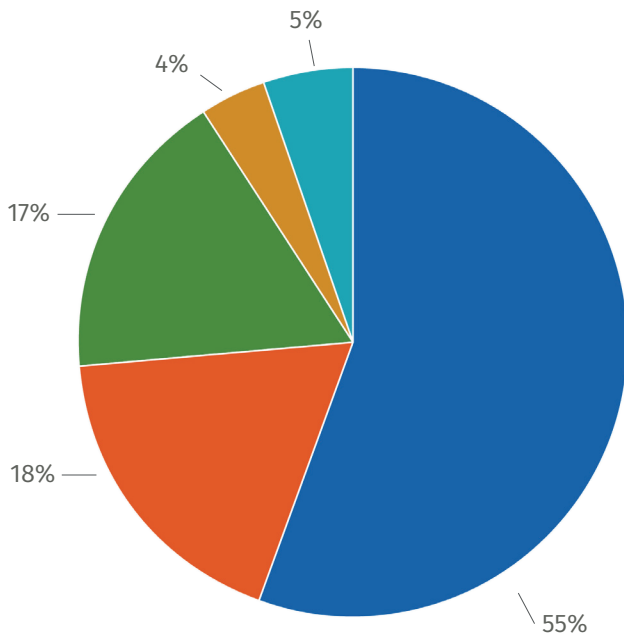
# MHEC FINANCIALS FY24

## FY24 REVENUE



| FY24 REVENUE      |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| State Commitments | \$1,380,000        |
| Contracts         | \$6,834,276        |
| Programs          | \$1,349,947        |
| Other Income      | \$355,225          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      | <b>\$9,929,448</b> |

## FY24 EXPENSES



| FY24 EXPENSES       |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Salaries & Benefits | \$2,422,744        |
| Contracted Fees     | \$828,014          |
| Convening           | \$800,352          |
| Rent & Leases       | \$169,027          |
| General Expenses    | \$235,723          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>\$4,475,860</b> |

# 2023-24 MHEC COMMISSIONERS

## ILLINOIS

Dr. Maureen Banks, Board Member,  
Illinois Community College Board  
3/24/2023 to 3/24/2027

The Hon. Michael Halpin, Senator,  
Illinois General Assembly  
3/21/2023 to 1/2/2025

Pranav Kothari, Board Chair,  
Illinois Board of Higher Education  
3/15/2023 to 1/1/2027

The Hon. Katie Stuart, Representative,  
Illinois General Assembly  
1/25/2023 - 1/2/2025

## INDIANA

The Hon. Bob Behning, Representative,  
Indiana General Assembly  
7/1/2024 to 6/30/2026

The Hon. Spencer Deery, Senator,  
Indiana General Assembly  
2/23/2024 to 6/30/2025

Dr. Charles Johnson, President,  
Vincennes University  
9/9/2024 – 6/30/2025

Dr. Dottie King, President and CEO,  
Independent Colleges of Indiana  
4/12/2024 – 2/28/2028

Dr. Ronald S. Rochon, President,  
University of Southern Indiana  
7/1/2021 - 6/30/2025

Dr. Ken Sauer, Senior Advisor to the  
Commissioner, Indiana Commission  
for Higher Education; Indiana  
Governor's Designee  
3/27/2017 - APOG

## IOWA

The Hon. Jacob Bossman, Representative,  
Iowa Legislature  
5/3/2023- 1/12/2025

Ms. Joanna Hofer, Past Board Chair,  
Iowa Association of Community  
College Trustees  
7/1/2023 – 7/1/2025

Ms. Olivia M.A. Madison,  
Iowa Governor's Designee  
5/1/2023 – 4/30/2025, APOG

Ms. Greta Rouse, Regent,  
Iowa Board of Regents  
5/11/2023 - 4/30/2027

The Hon. Cindy Winckler, Senator,  
Iowa Legislature  
2/10/2023 - 1/12/2025

### Commissioner Alternates

Mr. Andrew Baumert, Vice President for  
Marketing and Outreach, Iowa Association  
of Independent Colleges and Universities  
2/13/2020 - 1/1/2024

Mr. Timothy Fitzgibbon,  
Iowa Governor's Designee  
5/1/2023- 4/30/2025, APOG

Dr. David Ford, Bureau Chief, Iowa College  
Aid-Iowa Department of Education  
3/28/2024 – 7/1/2025

The Hon. Sharon Steckman,  
Representative, Iowa Legislature  
5/11/2023 - 1/12/2025

The Hon. Jeff Taylor, Senator,  
Iowa Legislature  
1/22/2023 - 1/12/2025

## KANSAS

The Hon. Barbara Ballard, Representative,  
Kansas Legislature  
7/1/2023 – 6/30/2025

The Hon. Molly Baumgardner, Senator,  
Kansas Legislature  
7/1/2023 – 6/30/2025

Dr. Blake Flanders, President and CEO,  
Kansas Board of Regents  
9/15/2022 - 6/30/2026

Dr. Cynthia Lane, Board Member,  
Kansas Board of Regents  
9/15/2022- 9/20/2023

Mr. Aaron A. Otto, KS Governor's Designee  
7/5/2019 - APOG

Mr. Wint Winter, Board Member,  
Kansas Board of Regents  
9/20/2023 – 6/30/2026

### Commissioner Alternates

The Hon. Marci Francisco, Senator,  
Kansas Legislature  
7/1/2023 – 6/30/2025

The Hon. Ken Rahjes, Representative,  
Kansas Legislature  
7/1/2023 – 6/30/2025

## MICHIGAN

The Hon. Carol Glanville, Representative,  
Michigan Legislature  
1/1/2023 - 12/31/2024

Dr. Daniel J. Hurley, Chief Executive Officer,  
Michigan Association of State Universities  
5/9/2024 – 3/18/2025

Ms. Brandy M. Johnson, President,  
Michigan Community College Association  
5/9/2024 – 3/18/2027

The Hon. Sean McCann, Senator,  
Michigan Legislature  
4/10/2023 - 1/8/2025

Ms. Emma Young, Policy Analyst to the  
Governor, State of Michigan;  
Michigan Governor's Designee  
5/9/2024 - APOG

### Commissioner Alternate

Dr. David L. Eisler, Former President,  
Ferris State University  
3/26/2021 - 3/18/2025

## MINNESOTA

Dr. Rachel Croson, Executive Vice President  
and Provost, University of Minnesota  
9/1/2023 to 1/6/2025

The Hon. Omar Fateh, Senator,  
Minnesota Legislature  
2/10/2023 - 1/7/2025

Dr. Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor,  
Minnesota State  
3/3/2021 – 6/30/2024

Mr. Dennis Olson, Commissioner,  
Minnesota Office of Higher Education;  
Minnesota Governor's Designee  
2/17/2023 – 1/4/2027; APOG

Dr. Scott Olson, Chancellor,  
Minnesota State  
9/1/2023 – 1/6/2025

The Hon. Gene Pelowski, Jr., Representative,  
Minnesota Legislature  
1/31/2023 - 1/7/2025

### Commissioner Alternate

Mr. Paul Cerkvenik, President,  
Minnesota Private College Council  
12/8/2014

APOG = At Pleasure of the Governor



# 2023-24 MHEC COMMISSIONERS

## MISSOURI

The Hon. Brad Christ, Representative,  
Missouri General Assembly  
7/23/2024 – 7/1/2026

The Hon. Karla Eslinger, Senator,  
Missouri General Assembly  
5/11/2023 – 5/6/2024

Ms. Samantha Dickey, Assistant Commissioner  
for Postsecondary Policy, Missouri  
Department of Higher Education &  
Workforce Development; Missouri  
Governor's Designee  
7/17/2023 – APOG

Mr. David Pearce, Executive Director for  
Government Relations, University of  
Central Missouri  
10/5/2022 – 1/1/2026

Dr. Susan Thomas, President,  
Truman State University  
6/3/2019 to 1/1/2021

The Hon. Curtis Trent, Senator, Missouri  
General Assembly  
5/6/2024 – 12/31/2024

## NEBRASKA

Mr. Matthew Blomstedt, Associate Vice  
President for Government Relations,  
University of Nebraska System  
10/3/2024 – 1/1/2027

The Hon. John Cavanaugh, Senator,  
Nebraska Legislature  
1/11/2023 – 1/1/2025

Dr. Deborah Frison, Member, Coordinating  
Commission for Postsecondary Education  
1/2/2023 – 1/1/2027

Mr. Chris Kabourek, Sr VP for Business &  
Finance | CFO, University of Nebraska  
System  
10/16/2023 – 10/1/2024

Mr. Grant Latimer, Policy Advisor to Governor  
Jim Pillen, State of Nebraska; Nebraska  
Governor's Designee  
10/16/2023 – APOG

Mr. Heath Mello, Vice President for External  
Relations, University of Nebraska System  
1/2/2023 – 10/16/2023

The Hon. Lynne Walz, Senator,  
Nebraska Legislature  
1/11/2023 – 1/1/2025

### Commissioner Alternates

Dr. Michael Baumgartner, Executive Director,  
Coordinating Commission for  
Postsecondary Education  
9/3/2014

Dr. Paul Turman, Chancellor,  
Nebraska State College System  
4/23/2024 – 7/1/2028

## NORTH DAKOTA

The Hon. Kyle Davison, Senator,  
North Dakota Legislative Assembly  
8/1/2023 – 7/23/2025

Tim Flakoll, North Dakota Governor's  
Designee  
12/15/2016 – APOG

Dr. Mark Hagerott, Chancellor,  
North Dakota University System  
7/1/2023 – 6/30/2027

Mr. Tim Mihalick, President, State Board  
of Higher Education  
7/21/2021 – 6/30/2025

The Hon. Brandy Pyle, Representative,  
North Dakota Legislative Assembly  
8/1/2023 – 7/31/2025

## OHIO

Mr. Gary Cates, Senior Vice Chancellor,  
Ohio Department of Higher Education  
1/9/2023 – 1/8/2027

The Hon. Jerry Cirino, Senator,  
Ohio Legislature  
1/17/2023 – 12/31/2024

Mr. Mike Duffey, Chancellor,  
Ohio Department of Higher Education  
Ohio Governor's Designee  
1/29/2021 – APOG

Mr. Jack Hershey  
3/3/2021 to 1/8/2025

The Hon. Tom Young, Representative,  
Ohio Legislature  
2/28/2023 – 1/1/2025

## SOUTH DAKOTA

Dr. Michael Cartney, President Emeritus,  
Lake Area Technical Institute  
1/3/2021 – 12/31/2024

The Hon. Steve Kolbeck, Senator,  
South Dakota Legislature  
3/27/2023 – 12/31/2024

Mr. Nathan Lukkes, Executive Director and  
CEO, South Dakota Board of Regents  
7/1/2022 – 6/30/2026

Mr. Larry J. Tidemann, South Dakota  
Governor's Designee  
1/11/2019 – APOG

The Hon. Tyler Tordsen, Representative,  
South Dakota Legislature  
3/27/2023 – 12/31/2024

### Commissioner Alternates

The Hon. Erin Healy, Representative,  
South Dakota Legislature  
3/27/2023 – 12/31/2024

The Hon. Reynold Nesiba, Senator,  
South Dakota Legislature  
3/27/2023 – 12/31/2024

## WISCONSIN

The Hon. Joan Ballweg, Senator,  
Wisconsin State Legislature  
1/30/2023 – 1/6/2025

Dr. Eric Fulcomer, President,  
Wisconsin Association of Independent  
Colleges and Universities  
7/1/2023 – 7/1/2027

Dr. Connie Hutchison, Executive Secretary,  
State of Wisconsin Higher Educational  
Aids Board  
7/13/2021 – 3/13/2024

The Hon. David Murphy, Representative,  
Wisconsin State Legislature  
4/17/2024 – 6/30/2025

Julie Underwood, Professor Emeritus,  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Wisconsin Governor's Designee  
4/2/2019 – APOG

### Commissioner Alternates

Dr. Morna K. Foy, President,  
Wisconsin Technical College System  
3/11/2013 – 9/9/2024

Ms. Layla Merrifield, President,  
Wisconsin Technical College System  
9/17/2024 – 8/31/2028

Mr. Sean P. Nelson, Vice President of Finance,  
University of Wisconsin System  
2/6/2018 – 9/9/2024

Mr. Christopher Patton, Interim Vice  
President for University Relations,  
University of Wisconsin System  
2/6/2018 – 9/9/2024

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MHEC brings together midwestern states to develop and support best practices, collaborative efforts, and cost-sharing opportunities. Through these efforts it works to ensure strong, equitable postsecondary educational opportunities and outcomes for all.



**MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT**  
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VISIT MHEC'S WEBSITE AT [MHEC.ORG](http://MHEC.ORG)