



MIDWESTERN
HIGHER EDUCATION
— COMPACT —



2024-2025

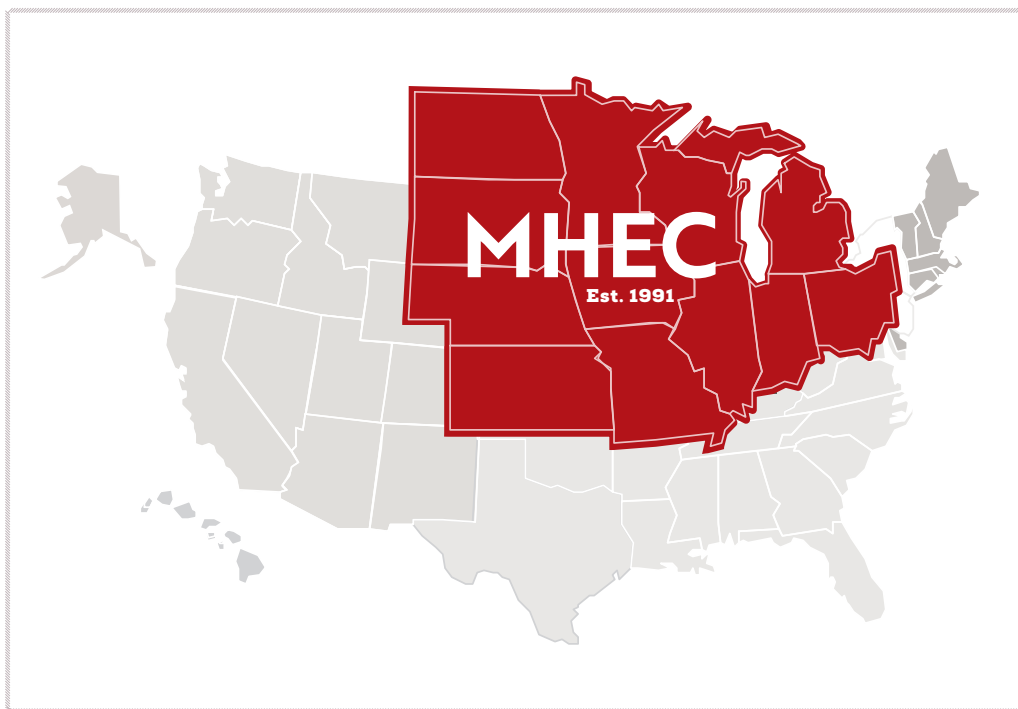
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBER STATES

MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

The Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) brings together leaders from 12 Midwestern states to strengthen postsecondary education and promote regional economic vitality. By leveraging the knowledge and expertise of postsecondary leaders, MHEC generates collaborative solutions to challenges in higher education.

MHEC's contracts and programs save colleges, universities, and students in its member states valuable time and millions of dollars annually. Its research and initiatives support workforce readiness and improve the quality, accessibility, and affordability of postsecondary education.

One of four regional higher education compacts in the United States, MHEC was established in the early 1990s through the enactment of legislation recommended by the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments. MHEC 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

GREETINGS

We are pleased to share the Midwestern Higher Education Compact's annual report reflecting the accomplishments over the past year. We extend our deep gratitude to our commissioners, committee members, advisory groups, and partner organizations from our 12 member states who contributed to our successes.

This past year marked a year of revenue growth due to increased usage of MHEC's technology contracts by higher education, K-12 entities, and government. This growth has allowed MHEC to establish, for the first time, a grant initiative for our member states. Each of our 12 states is eligible to apply for a \$250,000 Strategic Impact and Innovation Grant to pursue key activities that align with MHEC's strategic priorities. Two states have already submitted terrific proposals.

Other major accomplishments in fiscal year 2025 included:

- Expansion of our student health insurance program
- Leadership of major initiatives to advance dual enrollment, open educational resources, college affordability, and FAFSA
- Publication of research on two critically important topics—service-contingent financial aid and college promise programs—and frequent updates of our much-used interactive dashboard of higher education indicators
- Planning for the launch of a sponsored cell captive to help institutions manage insurance risk in our member states
- Continued partnerships with our compact peers, NC-SARA, SHEEO, and CSG Midwest, relationships that are increasingly important as we seek to address common challenges and opportunities

In our visits to MHEC member states this year, MHEC staff and commissioners heard concerns about financial pressures, workforce alignment and shortages, meaningful credential and degree pathways, shifting demographics and declining enrollment, cyber threats, and the overall value proposition of higher education. This input will drive our work in the coming year.

We are a unique organization where—regardless of differences in perspectives or political affiliation—higher education leaders, policymakers, and other midwestern leaders can come together to focus on education and our region's overall economic well-being. Thank you for your involvement and your tremendous dedication to postsecondary education in our region.

Sincerely,



Susan G. Heegaard
MHEC President



Mike Duffey
MHEC Chair, 2024-2025
Chancellor, Ohio Department of Higher Education



SUSAN G. HEEGAARD



MIKE DUFFEY

2024-2025 SAVINGS FOR MEMBER STATES



TECHNOLOGY
CONTRACTS

\$31.6M

STATE DISTANCE
EDUCATION RECIPROCITY
AGREEMENTS

\$112.3M

CAPACITY BUILDING
SUPPORT FOR STATE
LEADERS

\$220,000

MASTER PROPERTY
PROGRAM DIVIDENDS

\$748,000

**TOTAL SAVINGS
FOR STATES &
INSTITUTIONS**

\$144.8M



The Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP) has helped students and families save millions of dollars by making it more affordable for non-resident students to attend out-of-state colleges and universities. This program is currently being reviewed in response to changes in tuition reciprocity practices.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024-2025



INCUBATE

**Advance
innovation,
efficiency &
effectiveness**

- » Enhanced communications strategy led to 34% growth in MHEC newsletter readership
 - » New website launched and brand refreshed to reflect needs of MHEC audiences
 - » State engagement doubled to include 131 meetings with 13 institutions and 97 webinars and convenings shared innovative ideas and best practices
-



LAUNCH

**Develop
collaborative
solutions
to regional
problems &
opportunities**

- » Workforce outcomes data added to interactive dashboard and state performance updates
 - » Leadership continued to support FAFSA and college affordability efforts, open educational resources expansion, dual enrollment advancement, and M-SARA modifications
 - » Research produced two reports on timely topics: “College Promise Programs in the Midwest: Insights for Higher Education Leaders” and “Service-Contingent Financial Aid: Exploring State Loan Forgiveness and Conditional Grant Programs”
-



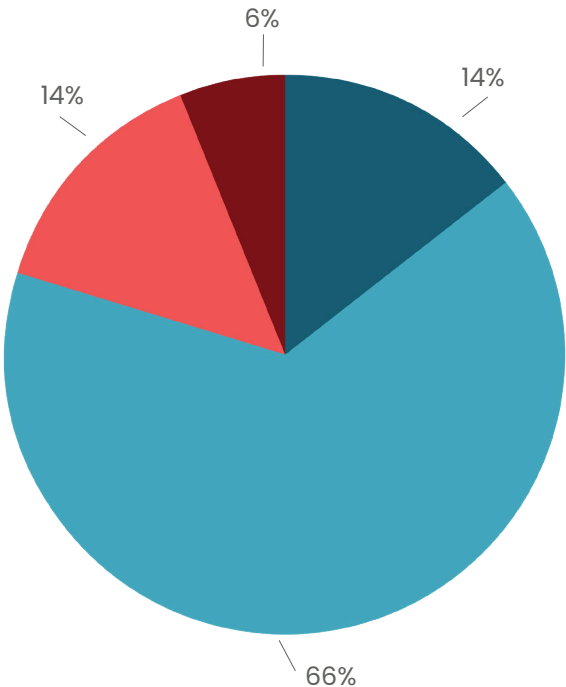
SAVE

**Drive cost
savings &
business
solutions**

- » Technology contract usage increased by 5% and revenue grew 18%
- » Student health insurance contract usage grew 3.8% and enrollment increased by 41%
- » Plans to establish a sponsored cell captive to help institutions manage insurance risk in our member states

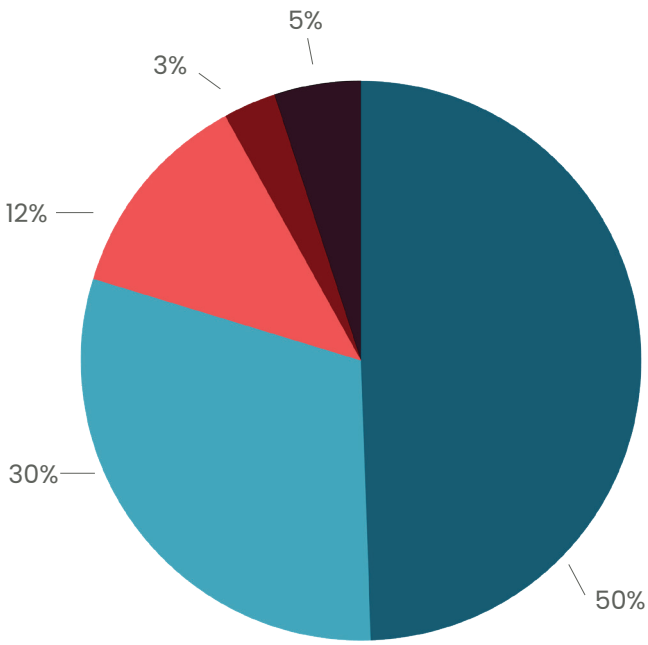
MHEC FINANCIALS FY25

FY25 REVENUE



FY25 REVENUE	
State Commitments	\$1,380,000
Contracts	\$6,255,563
Programs	\$1,347,384
Other Income	\$565,267
TOTAL	\$9,548,215

FY25 EXPENSES



FY25 EXPENSES	
Salaries & Benefits	\$2,805,090
Contracted Fees	\$1,714,902
Convening	\$686,426
Rent & Leases	\$174,850
General Expenses	\$271,812
TOTAL	\$5,653,080

2024-25 MHEC COMMISSIONERS

The Commission consists of five resident members from each MHEC state: the governor or governor's designee; two legislators, one from each legislative chamber (except Nebraska which has a unicameral); two at large members, most often appointed by the governor. Additionally, some states have alternate commissioners; the criteria and number of such alternate commissioners varies depending upon the state.

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

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

The Hon. Katie Stuart, Representative,
Illinois General Assembly
3/17/2025 - 1/2/2027

INDIANA

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

Mr. Matt Butler, Chief Academic Officer
Indiana Commission for Higher
Education
5/14/2025, APOG

The Hon. Spencer Deery, Senator,
Indiana General Assembly
2/23/2024 - 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 - 7/22/2024

IOWA

Mr. Timothy Fitzgibbon,
5/1/2025 to 4/30/2027, APOG

The Hon. Jesse Green, Senator,
Iowa Legislature
1/13/2025 to 1/10/2027

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

The Hon. Monica Kurth, Representative,
Iowa Legislature
4/3/2025 - 1/10/2027

Ms. Greta Rouse, President Pro Tem,
Iowa Board of Regents
5/19/2025 - 4/30/2027

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

Commissioner Alternates

The Hon. Jacob Bossman,
Representative, Iowa Legislature
3/24/2025 - 1/10/2027

Mr. Matthew Draud, President,
Brian Cliff University
5/13/2025 - 5/12/2029

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

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

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

The Hon. Cindy Winckler, Senator,
Iowa Legislature
1/13/2025 - 1/10/2027

KANSAS

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

The Hon. Molly Baumgardner, Senator,
Kansas Legislature
7/1/2023 - 1/13/2025

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

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

Mr. Wint Winter, Board Member,
Kansas Board of Regents
9/20/2023 - 6/30/2025

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

Dr. Daniel J. Hurley, Chief Executive
Officer, Michigan Association of
State Universities
3/30/2025 - 3/18/2029

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

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

The Hon. Greg Markkanen,
Representative, Michigan Legislature
4/30/2025 - 12/31/2026

The Hon. Sean McCann, Senator,
Michigan Legislature
1/22/2025 - 1/13/2027

Ms. Emma Young, Deputy Director of
Policy, Executive Office of the Governor
5/9/2024 - APOG

Commissioner Alternate

Ms. Beverly Walker-Griffea,
Executive Director, Department
of Michigan Lifelong, Education,
Advancement, and Potential
4/3/2025 - APOG

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
2/21/2025 - 1/1/2027

The Hon. Jessica Hanson, Representative,
Minnesota Legislature
3/12/2025 - 1/11/2027

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
5/14/2025 - 1/1/2029

APOG = At Pleasure of the Governor

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

Dr. Raj Singh, Vice Provost,
University of Minnesota
5/14/2025 – 1/4/2027

Commissioner Alternate

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

MISSOURI

The Hon. Chris Brown, Representative,
Missouri General Assembly
5/23/2025 – 7/1/2026

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
1/16/2025 – 12/31/2026

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
1/16/2025 – 1/1/2027

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

The Hon. Jana Hughes, Senator,
Nebraska Legislature
1/16/2025 – 1/1/2027

Mr. Chris Kabourek, Interim President,
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

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 – 7/31/2025

Mr. Tim Flakoll, Cass County
Commissioner,
1/13/2025 – APOG

Dr. Mark Hagerott, Chancellor,
North Dakota University System
7/1/2023 – 4/29/2025

Mr. Tim Mihalick, Member, 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

Mr. Brent Sanford, Commissioner, North
Dakota University System
5/21/2025 – 6/30/2027

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
3/31/2025 – 12/31/2026

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

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

Mr. C. Todd Jones, President and General
Counsel, Association of Independent
Colleges & Universities of Ohio
1/9/2025 – 1/8/2029

The Hon. Tom Young, Representative,
Ohio Legislature
3/3/2025 – 1/1/2027

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
1/25/2025 – 6/30/2026 – APOG

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

WISCONSIN

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

Ms. Tammie DeVooght, Executive
Secretary, Higher Educational Aids
Board
2/20/2025 – 7/1/2025

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

The Hon. André Jacque, Senator,
Wisconsin State Legislature
2/21/2025 – 1/4/2027

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

Ms. 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
2/6/2018 – 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
3/11/2013 – 9/9/2024

Mr. Christopher Patton, Interim Vice
President for University Relations,
University of Wisconsin System
9/9/2024 – 8/31/2028

*Commissioners serving from
July 1, 2024, through June 30,
2025.*

APOG = At Pleasure of the Governor



MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION — COMPACT —



MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

105 Fifth Avenue South, Suite 450 Minneapolis, MN 55401

PHONE: (612) 677-2777

E-MAIL: mhec@mhec.org

MHEC.ORG