

21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS



YEARS

of supporting student success



INDIANA COMMISSION *for*
HIGHER EDUCATION

A PROGRAM OF THE **INDIANA COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**



“The 21st Century Scholars program opened the door to a college degree for me so that I can keep the same door open for my daughter.”

- Danielle Nimtz, 21st Century Scholar

- 3 Introduction**
- 4 21st Century Scholars: Past, Present and Future**
- 12 Scholar Alumni Profiles**
- 24 Scholar Partner Profiles**
- 31 Scholar Scorecard**
- 32 Scholar Support Initiatives**
- 34 Get Involved with the Scholars Program**

SCHOLARS INTRODUCTION

SINCE 1990, Indiana's 21st Century Scholars program has helped thousands of low-income Hoosier students aspire to and afford a college education.

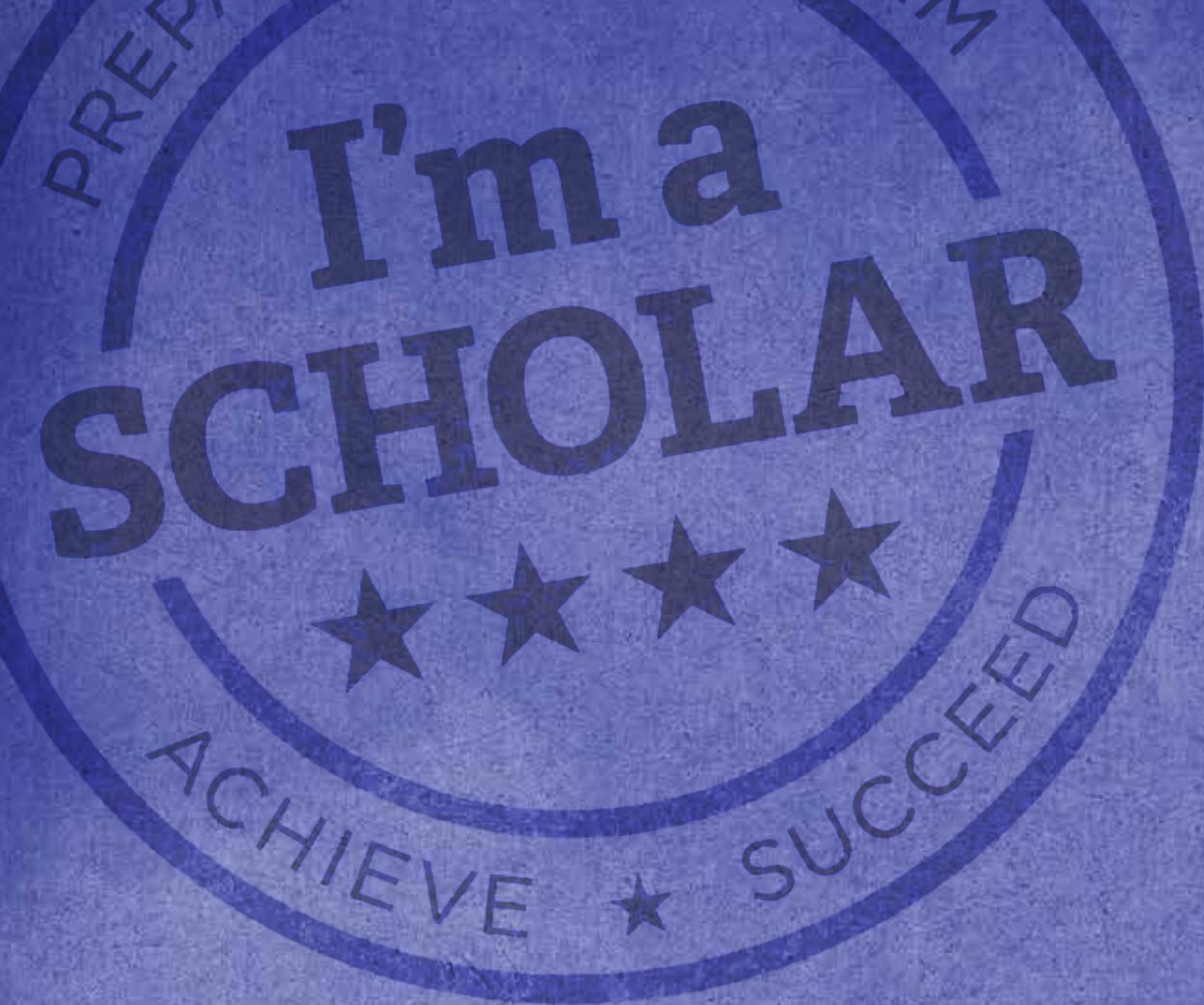
The early-promise scholarship program goes beyond paying college tuition and fees with clear expectations that prepare students for success beyond high school. Scholars are required to keep their grades up, avoid drugs and alcohol, complete key college-readiness activities during high school and stay on track to earn their degrees on time.

Today the Scholars program is a national model for promoting student success, representing a significant ongoing financial commitment by Indiana's lawmakers and contributing to Indiana's status as one of the most generous states in the nation for need-based student financial aid.

As Indiana marks the 25th anniversary of the Scholars program, now is the time to reflect upon its growth, its impact on the lives of Hoosiers and the opportunities to make the program even stronger.

21st Century Scholars are more likely to:

1. Go to college than all Indiana students.
2. Be college ready than their low-income peers.
3. Complete college than their low-income peers.



21st Century Scholars:

Past, Present and Future

SCHOLARS: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

A national model for student success, the 21st Century Scholars program has evolved over its 25-year history with one goal in mind—to get more Hoosiers into and through college with a degree.

21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS MILESTONES

MORE THAN 70,000 STUDENTS HAVE USED A 21ST CENTURY SCHOLARSHIP.

AT LEAST 30,000 LOW-INCOME STUDENTS HAVE EARNED A COLLEGE DEGREE WITH A 21ST CENTURY SCHOLARSHIP.

MORE THAN 110,000 STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAM TODAY.

21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS TIMELINE

1990

INDIANA CREATES
21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS PROGRAM



2011

INDIANA ESTABLISHES SCHOLAR
SUCCESS PROGRAM TO IMPROVE
COLLEGE READINESS



2013

INDIANA CREATES CREDIT
COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS
FOR ALL STATE FINANCIAL AID
RECIPIENTS, INCLUDING 21ST
CENTURY SCHOLARS



FIRST 21ST CENTURY
SCHOLARS ENROLL
IN COLLEGE

1995



SCHOLARCORPS PROGRAM
LAUNCHES AT 10 COLLEGE
CAMPUSES (17 CURRENTLY)

2012

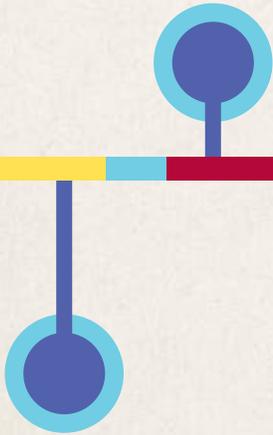
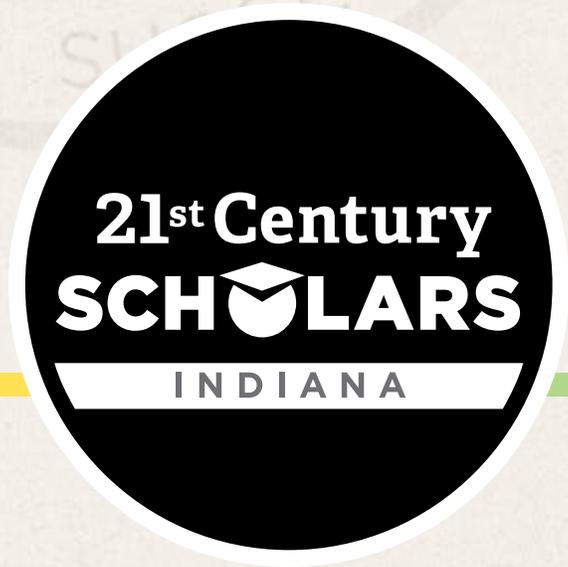
PREPARE TO PERFORM
I'm a SCHOLAR
SUCCEED

2017

FIRST CLASS OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES REQUIRED TO COMPLETE SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

2015

FIRST CLASS OF SCHOLARS REQUIRED TO GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL WITH A 2.5 GPA



STATE DEPLOYS COLLEGE SUCCESS COACHES AT 25 INDIANA CAMPUSES

2014

LOOKING BACK: HOW SCHOLARS CAME TO BE

A conversation with Stan Jones, President, Complete College America and former Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education.

Where were you when the 21st Century Scholars program was created? I was a State Representative in 1990 when Indiana's 21st Century Scholars Program was created by the Indiana General Assembly. Then-Gov. Evan Bayh made passing the legislation a top priority, and despite some skepticism, the bill I authored to create the program gained bipartisan support from both legislative chambers.



What prompted the program's creation? A college degree was becoming an ever more important milestone for those hoping to secure good jobs to support families, and Indiana was looking for ways to make sure low-income Hoosiers had affordable access to higher education. At the same time, our state had an equally challenging problem: Far too many students were failing to meet the bare minimum criteria for success—a high school diploma.

What makes the Scholars program unique from most other financial aid programs? Indiana's focus on support beyond tuition sets the Scholars Program apart from many similar state programs across the country. We understood from the beginning that just giving students money for tuition won't change many of the challenges they face in college. Low-income students often have less-

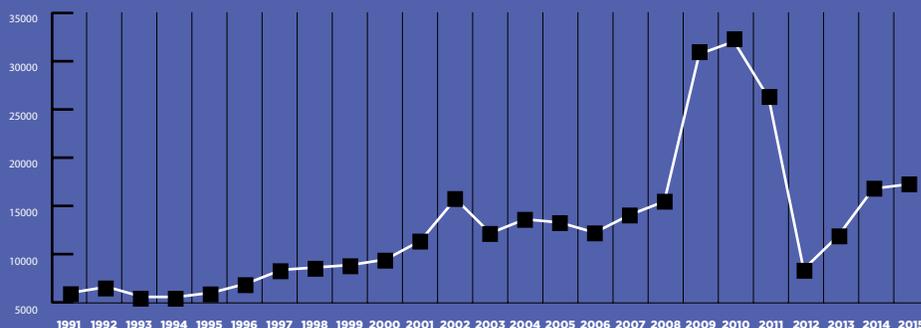
“What was clear from the very start of the 21st Century Scholars program was its power to transform the way low-income students—and their parents—viewed themselves.”

support in the years leading up to college than most of their peers, and they may be less likely to get the help they need once they get there. Making student support a key component of the 21st Century Scholars program has helped more students achieve the ultimate goal of college completion.

Why do you think other states (including Oklahoma and Washington) have modeled similar programs after the Scholars program? Requiring students to apply for the program in middle school fundamentally changed the high-school experience for these low-income students. Knowing they had the promise of a full-tuition scholarship upon graduation, Indiana's Scholars took better courses in high school, studied harder, and earned more meaningful diplomas that better prepared them for college. Plus, by taking the Scholar Pledge to affirm their commitment to the program, students promised to perform academically and avoid behavior that could derail their college plans.

TRENDS

Scholar Enrollment
1991 -2015



A NATIONAL MODEL FOR COLLEGE SUCCESS

How have state lawmakers supported the Scholars program over the years?

Five years after passing the original legislation that created the Scholars program, the Indiana General Assembly fully funded scholarships for the program's first group of high school seniors entering college. Since then, in 25 years they have never wavered in their commitment to fulfilling this promise to low-income students and families. The results, as you'll see, are inspiring—both from the Scholars' stories of success and the State's continued effort to help more Hoosiers access the program and earn college degrees.

What is the legacy of the 21st Century Scholars program? What was clear from the very start of the 21st Century Scholars program was its power to transform the way low-income students—and their parents—viewed themselves. Time and again we heard from students, "I never thought I could go to college. I never thought that was an option for me." For parents, the program empowered them to take a more active role in making sure their children were doing the right things in high school and taking the right classes to prepare them for college.

After 25 years, the Scholars Program has earned a nationwide reputation as a model program for other states. In the years ahead, I know our state's commitment to the program will remain focused on helping more low-income and first-generation college students persist and gain the credentials they need to pursue economic security and full, meaningful lives.

The 21st Century Scholars program has grown dramatically since Hoosier students first began enrolling in 1991—peaking during the 2008-10 national economic recession when income-eligibility for the program was at an all-time high. Scholar enrollment stabilized as Indiana's economy recovered and has since increased from pre-recession levels.

THE SCHOLAR PLEDGE

As a 21st Century Scholar, I pledge to:

- ✓ Complete the Scholar Success Program, which includes activities at each grade level in high school to help me stay on track for college and career success.
- ✓ Graduate from a state-accredited high school with a minimum of a Core 40 diploma and a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- ✓ Not use illegal drugs, commit a crime or delinquent act, or consume alcohol before reaching the legal drinking age.
- ✓ File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 10 as a high school senior and each year thereafter until I graduate from college.
- ✓ Apply to an eligible Indiana college as a high school senior, and enroll in college as a full-time student within one year of high school graduation.
- ✓ Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards established by my college.
- ✓ Complete 30 credit hours each year I am in college to stay on track to earn my degree on time.

NOTE: The original Scholar Pledge was updated to reflect the Scholar Success Program, 2.5 GPA, and credit completion requirements established by the Indiana General Assembly.

LOOKING FORWARD

A conversation with Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers. Lubbers previously served as a State Senator in the Indiana General Assembly for 16 years where she led on education and economic development issues.

After 25 years of the 21st Century Scholars program, what milestones are you celebrating?

Reflecting on 25 years of Indiana's 21st Century Scholar program, it's clear we have much to celebrate. More than 30,000 Hoosiers have realized the dream of a college degree because of the program, and today over 110,000 low-income students are enrolled as Scholars and on the path to successful college completion.

How has the program changed since you became Commissioner? When I became Indiana's Commissioner for Higher Education in 2009, our challenge was to build upon the success of this exemplar, need-based state scholarship program. By then, the program was well known, with growing numbers of students applying and enrolling in college after graduating high school.

At that same time, the conversation around higher education was experiencing a period of change. While in previous decades our efforts targeted increasing student access to college, nationally and in Indiana, the focus was shifting more and more toward college completion. With that in mind, Indiana adopted a big goal for 60 percent of Hoosiers to have a quality degree or credential by 2025—a goal directly reflecting projected future workforce needs.

What are the barriers to college completion for Scholars? For many of Indiana's 21st Century Scholars, the obstacles to degree completion are high. These students are more likely to be the first in their family to go to college and to be raised in single-parent households. Furthermore, through research and direct discussions with our Scholars, we learned too many of these students feel anonymous and unsupported on college campuses. Based on these findings, we set out to create

better guidance and supports leading up to and during college to help more 21st Century Scholars persist and complete their degrees. To track progress and improvements, we publish annual Scholar Scorecards that measure Scholar college-readiness, performance, persistence, and completion compared to their low-income peers and all Hoosier students.

How is Indiana helping Scholars prepare for success in college?

In 2013, Indiana created the Scholar Success Program, a series of required activities Scholars must complete in each year of high school to receive their scholarships upon graduation—including earning a cumulative 2.5 GPA. The requirements were designed



CHALLENGES

On-Time Completion:

15%

of Scholars earn an associate or bachelor's degree on time.

College Completion:

33%

of Scholars graduate after three and six years.

RECENT REFORMS

High School:

- Raised minimum GPA from 2.0 to 2.5
- Required Core 40 diploma (minimum)
- Established Scholar Success Program

College:

- Created Credit Completion Requirements
- Added flexibility to use aid during summer
- Expanded college transition programs and on-campus support (ScholarCorps, College Success Coaches)

REACHING HIGHER

to help prepare students for the rigors and realities of college life before they begin their first semester. The high school graduating class of 2017 will be the first to complete the Scholar Success Program before entering college. Already, however, we're hearing positive feedback from high school staff and parents about how the program is better preparing students to succeed in college.

campuses with high Scholar populations. The program uses proactive advising to make sure students feel connected to campus resources on on-track to meet academic requirements. Even more, in public and private colleges across the state, campuses are developing and implementing programs of their own to make sure more students succeed when they get to college.

Additionally, research shows that time is the enemy of college completion. To keep students on track to graduate on time, Indiana passed financial aid reforms that required students to take 30 credit hours per calendar year to receive state financial aid. We are seeing steady increases in on-time degree completion for every student population.

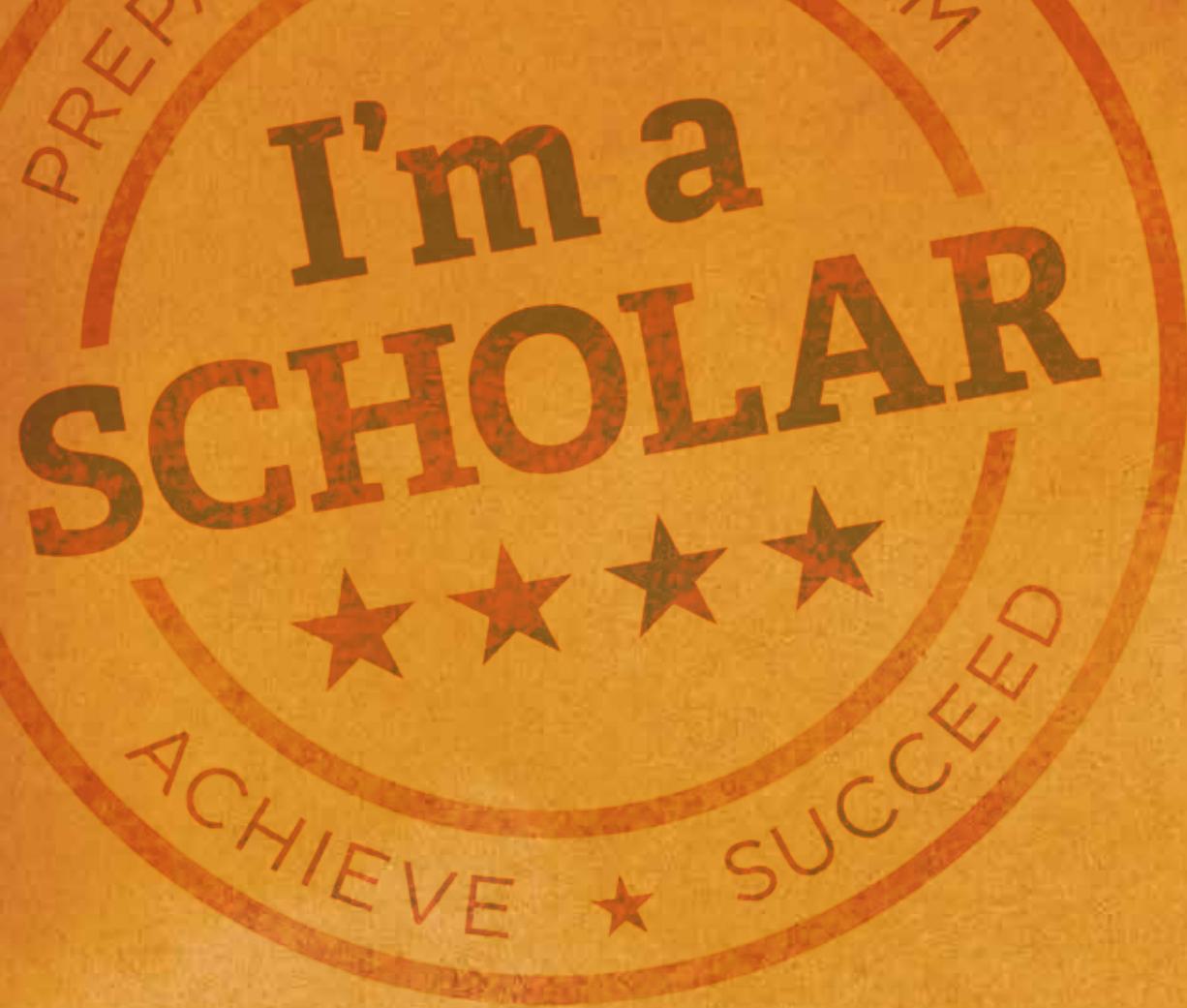
“Undeniably, the [Scholars] program is transforming lives and families one student at a time, but it’s also... providing valuable insights on strategies that work for all Hoosier students.”

What is the legacy of the 21st Century Scholars Program? Together, these many efforts to support Scholars on their path to college completion are teaching us valuable lessons about the kinds of experiences and support all students—not just Indiana’s 21st Century Scholars—should have along the way.

What is Indiana doing to help Scholars once they get to college? Indiana and its college campuses are investing in programs to support 21st Century Scholars once they get to college. One example is the ScholarCorps program, which places support staff dedicated to helping Scholars succeed at 17 campuses. In the 2014-2015 academic year, Indiana piloted a student coaching program at 25 college

In this way, Indiana’s 21st Century Scholars Program is going above and beyond. Undeniably, the program is transforming lives and families one student at a time, but it’s also leading the way for our state and our nation, providing valuable insights on strategies that work for all Hoosier students.

The Scholar Success Program includes activities that help students stay on track for college and career success.			
GRADE	REQUIRED ACTIVITIES		
09	Create a Graduation Plan	Participate in an Extracurricular or Service Activity	Watch "Paying for College 101"
10	Take a Career Interests Assessment	Get Workplace Experience	Estimate the Costs of College
11	Visit a College Campus	Take a College Entrance Exam (ACT or SAT)	Search for Scholarships
12	Submit Your College Application	Watch "College Success 101"	File Your FAFSA



21st Century Scholars

Alumni Profiles

SCHOLAR **ALUMNI PROFILES**

The greatest assets of the 21st Century Scholars program are the students it serves. Here are a few of their stories... one for each of the past 25 years.

SCHOLARS VS. ALL INDIANA FINANCIAL AID FILERS

SCHOLARS ARE 1.4 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE THE FIRST IN THEIR FAMILY TO GO TO COLLEGE

SCHOLARS ARE OVER 2.5 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE RAISED BY SINGLE PARENTS

SCHOLARS REPORTED FAMILY INCOME WAS 75% LOWER THAN THE AVERAGE STUDENT WHO APPLIES FOR FINANCIAL AID



ALUMNI PROFILES

MONIQUE ARMSTRONG

HOMETOWN: MUNCIE
HIGH SCHOOL: MUNCIE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF '01
COLLEGE: BUTLER UNIVERSITY, B.A. PUBLIC AND CORPORATE COMMUNICATION
BALL STATE UNIVERSITY, M.A. EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT FOR PUBLIC SERVICE
CAREER: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MOTIVATE OUR MINDS, INC.

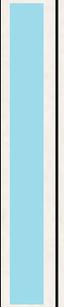
The acquisition of education is the purest expression of freedom. When my freedmen ancestors came to Indiana over 180 years ago I don't believe in their wildest imagination they dreamed that our state would offer the opportunity to expand minds for generations to come. If generational roots were not enough to solidify my Hoosier pride, the security associated with being a 21st Century Scholar helped me feel as if my state was supporting me in gaining an education.

The expectation of completing a college education was and still is transformative in my life. Additionally, the pride associated with the investment of the 21st Century Scholars program has motivated me to encourage others to take advantage of the scholarship. As an 8th grader when I was awarded a 21st Century Scholarship I felt a sense of accountability and security. I immediately understood that in addition to my community and family, Indiana was going to invest in my education. As a student, matching the investment was not easy. There were times that I felt under equipped and unprepared. Motivated by the stories of my ancestors and the expectations of my community, I worked multiple jobs and sacrificed socially. That short-term sacrifice ultimately yielded enormous attainment.

“Indiana’s investment in me will travel with me throughout my life.”

While matriculating at Butler, I was exposed to my favorite African proverb, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far go together.” Thanks to the 21st Century Scholarship, Indiana’s investment will travel with me throughout my life. Whether it be my Indiana State mentee or professional colleague, the attainment of freedom as a result of education, is a story that I tell to those that I work with both formally and informally daily. An education attained by one multiplies throughout the community. It is my hope that other Scholars will understand that their acquisition of education will yield freedom for us all.

SCHOLAR ALUMNI PROFILES

	<p>ELIJAH BARRY</p> <p>HOMETOWN: KOKOMO HIGH SCHOOL: KOKOMO HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF '96 COLLEGE: INDIANA UNIVERSITY KOKOMO, B.S. BUSINESS INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON, M.S. ADULT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION CAREER: HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR - IUPUI</p>	
	<p>HANS BERNABE</p> <p>HOMETOWN: FORT WAYNE HIGH SCHOOL: CONCORDIA HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF '11 COLLEGE: VINCENNES UNIVERSITY, A.A.S. COLLISION REPAIR VINCENNES UNIVERSITY, A.A. BUSINESS MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA, B.A. BUSINESS MANAGEMENT CAREER: FULL-TIME STUDENT, RESIDENT ASSISTANT AT USI</p>	
	<p>DAKOTA BROOKS</p> <p>HOMETOWN: CORYDON HIGH SCHOOL: CORYDON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF '13 COLLEGE: VINCENNES UNIVERSITY, A.A.S. CRIMINAL JUSTICE CAREER: SCHOLARCORPS MEMBER, INDIANA UNIVERSITY SOUTHEAST</p>	
	<p>DEREK CHASTAIN</p> <p>HOMETOWN: CAMPBELLSBURG HIGH SCHOOL: WEST WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF '96 COLLEGE: INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON, B.S. BIOLOGY INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON, M.S. SECONDARY SCIENCE EDUCATION CAREER: BIOLOGY TEACHER, COLUMBUS EAST HIGH SCHOOL</p>	



ALUMNI PROFILES

TIFFANY COLEMAN

HOMETOWN:
HIGH SCHOOL:
COLLEGE:

MUNCIE
SHELBYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF '08
INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON, B.A. POLITICAL SCIENCE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE;
INDIANA UNIVERSITY MAURER SCHOOL OF LAW, J.D.
ASSOCIATE, MALLOR GRODNER LLP

CAREER:

I grew up in Muncie, Indiana for most of my childhood, where I attended Washington Carver Elementary and Storer Elementary; but my 21st Century Scholars journey began in middle school at Northside. All of the students the school thought would qualify for 21st Century Scholars were called into the lunchroom one afternoon where we were taught about the program. We were sent home with a packet of information and a paper application. I made sure my mom filled it out that night. We later received my acceptance letter, and attending college became the only path for me.

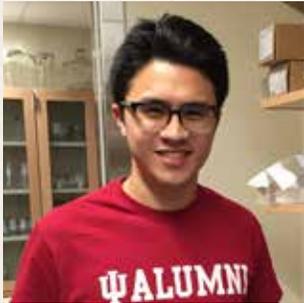
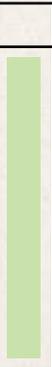
I relocated to Shelbyville, Indiana my sophomore year of high school and went on to graduate. Luckily, at the beginning of the spring semester my senior year, I just happened to ask about the 21st Century Scholars program. No one had tracked that I was a Scholar, but because I had inquired, we were able to complete my affirmation in time for me to attend college at Indiana University in the fall of 2008.

While at IU, I received connections and support through the programs and services that the IU 21st Century Scholars office had to offer. That support became a lifesaver in 2010 when my husband and I received custody of two of my younger siblings. The office rallied around us and connected us with community resources that enabled me to remain a strong student while supporting my siblings in Bloomington, all while my husband began his journey as a medic in the Army National Guard.

The 21st Century Scholars program is a vital and irreplaceable program in Indiana. Without it, students like myself would never have a chance to work towards their dreams. As a result of the program I am now able to give back to my community in ways I never thought possible and it all started with me sitting in a middle school lunchroom with a paper application.

**“I made sure my mom filled it
[the Scholar application] out that night...
college became the only path for me.”**

SCHOLAR ALUMNI PROFILES

	<p>AARON DY</p> <p>HOMETOWN: EVANSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL: WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF '10 COLLEGE: INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON, B.S. PHYSICS CAREER: GRADUATE STUDENT, M.I.T, PHD CANDIDATE, BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING</p>	
	<p>SARA GEORGE</p> <p>HOMETOWN: CENTERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL: CENTERVILLE-ABINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF '95 COLLEGE: INDIANA UNIVERSITY EAST, B.S. IN GENERAL STUDIES WITH EMPHASIS IN FINE ARTS MIAMI UNIVERSITY, OXFORD, OHIO, M.S. ARCHITECTURE CAREER: CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, PURDUE POLYTECHNIC</p>	
	<p>TONYA HALL</p> <p>HOMETOWN: TERRE HAUTE HIGH SCHOOL: TERRE HAUTE SOUTH VIGO HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF '05 COLLEGE: INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, B.S. COMMUNICATION STUDIES/PUBLIC RELATIONS INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, M.S. STUDENT AFFAIRS AND HIGHER EDUCATION CAREER: DIRECTOR OF 21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS, MARIAN UNIVERSITY</p>	
	<p>CHANTELLE HENDRY</p> <p>HOMETOWN: FORT WAYNE HIGH SCHOOL: CONCORDIA LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF '02 COLLEGE: INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, B.S. COMMUNICATION STUDIES, MINOR SOCIOLOGY CAREER: MANAGER OF ADMINISTRATION, 100 BLACK MEN OF INDIANAPOLIS, INC.</p>	



ALUMNI PROFILES

OMAR DIAZ

HOMETOWN: EAST CHICAGO
HIGH SCHOOL: MORTON HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF '04
COLLEGE: PURDUE CALUMET, B.S. INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCES, PHYSICS CONCENTRATION
CURRENTLY SEEKING, M. S. HUMAN SERVICES COUNSELING
CAREER: PROGRAM COORDINATOR FOR 21ST CENTURY COLLEGIATE SCHOLARS AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY CALUMET

I was the recipient of the 21st Century Scholarship and owe credit to the Scholars program for my current career path, and discovery of my passion; serving students pursuing higher education. I have come to realize and appreciate the value of education over time. My father worked to cultivate that notion in me as a boy. He moved from Puerto Rico after high school to attend college, but dropped out after a semester to work in the steel mills.

My parents worked hard for me, and I feel it is my duty to my family, community and most importantly myself to obtain a higher education. I can bring about change by pursuing an education, and through my success in the 21st Century Scholars program I have provided myself with an avenue to do so.

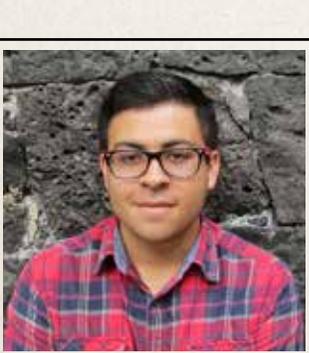
I have passionately served students in the field of Student Affairs since 2010. Originally on the path of teaching Physics, I realized I wanted to advocate for college students while fostering campus involvement, civic engagement, and student success.

I am currently pursuing a Master's of Science in Human Services Counseling while serving as the Program Coordinator of the 21st Century Collegiate Scholars office at Purdue University Calumet. I plan on obtaining a doctorate in Clinical Psychology once I receive my Master's degree. These career options would not be available to me if not for the 21st Century Scholars program.

“My parents worked hard for me, and I feel it is my duty to my family, community and most importantly myself to obtain a higher education.”



SCHOLAR ALUMNI PROFILES

	<p>PATRICK JESSE</p> <p>HOMETOWN: BLOOMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL: BLOOMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH, CLASS OF '01 COLLEGE: PURDUE UNIVERSITY, B.A. POLITICAL SCIENCE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, J.D. CAREER: CEO, DELTA SIGMA PHI FRATERNITY AND FOUNDATION</p>	
	<p>MICHAEL KENDALL</p> <p>HOMETOWN: TERRE HAUTE HIGH SCHOOL: TERRE HAUTE NORTH VIGO HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF '08 COLLEGE: INDIANA UNIVERSITY, B.A. INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS, MINOR IN SPANISH CAREER: IVY SCHOLARS COORDINATOR AND ACADEMIC ADVISOR, IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE, WARSAW CAMPUS</p>	
	<p>LEROY LEWIS III</p> <p>HOMETOWN: INDIANAPOLIS HIGH SCHOOL: BROAD RIPPLE HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF '95 COLLEGE: INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, B.S. MANAGEMENT CAREER: MANAGER OF PROVIDER EXPERIENCE, ESKENAZI MEDICAL GROUP</p>	
	<p>GUSTAVO LOPEZ</p> <p>HOMETOWN: HAMMOND HIGH SCHOOL: DONALD E. GAVIT HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF '10 COLLEGE: PURDUE UNIVERSITY WEST LAFAYETTE, B.S. ECONOMICS, B.A. POLITICAL SCIENCE CAREER: RESEARCH ASSISTANT, PEW RESEARCH CENTER</p>	



ALUMNI

PROFILES

BILLIE JO DAY

HOMETOWN:
HIGH SCHOOL:
COLLEGE:

SHOALS
SHOALS JR. SR. HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF '98
INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON, B.A. PSYCHOLOGY
HARVARD UNIVERSITY, M.ED. HIGHER EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, PH.D. CANDIDATE, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION
CAREER: RESEARCH ASSISTANT, CHICAGO POST-SECONDARY TRANSITION PROJECT

I don't know where I would be without the 21st Century Scholars program, which opened the door to a college education that was shut for me and many others in my rural hometown. In the 1990s the State of Indiana founded the 21st Century Scholars program to provide college tuition to low-income students that took a pledge to work hard and stay drug and alcohol free. To me that was a promise, a fair deal and a reason to keep pushing myself to do better. And that's exactly what I did; I worked hard in high school and graduated as valedictorian of my class, and got accepted to Indiana University Bloomington.

The 21st Century Scholars program set me on a trajectory that I would have never thought possible when I was a little girl growing up on a farm outside of Shoals, Indiana. Some of the impact of the Scholars program has been direct (like being able to attend IU), while others are more indirect: I have had the opportunity to travel extensively, to meet people from all walks of life, and to live abroad.

After IU, I attended two of the most renowned universities in the United States—Harvard University and the University of Chicago. These learning opportunities have enabled me to give back—first as an AmeriCorps*VISTA and then as a researcher. My experiences have driven my research interest in understanding the outcomes of rural students enrolled in community colleges and given me the training to make a difference in the lives of many who are in the same position I was in 15 years ago.

I am profoundly grateful for the 21st Century Scholars program and am excited to do my part in spreading the word about it to as many college-students-to-be as possible.

“The 21st Century Scholars program set me on a trajectory that I would have never thought possible...”



SCHOLAR ALUMNI PROFILES

	<p>DANIELLE NIMTZ</p> <p>HOMETOWN: COLUMBIA CITY HIGH SCHOOL: TROY CENTER ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL, CLASS OF '13 COLLEGE: IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE, A.S. LIBERAL ARTS CAREER: BURSAR OFFICE ASSISTANT AT IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE</p>	
	<p>CHRISTIAN ORR</p> <p>HOMETOWN: BLOOMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL: HARMONY SCHOOL, CLASS OF '96 COLLEGE: INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON, B.S. CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND POLITICAL SCIENCE CAREER: SPECIAL AGENT, UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE</p>	
	<p>JAMEL PERRYMAN</p> <p>HOMETOWN: INDIANAPOLIS HIGH SCHOOL: WARREN CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF '97 COLLEGE: PURDUE UNIVERSITY WEST LAFAYETTE, B.S. MATERIALS SCIENCE ENGINEERING; CAPELLA UNIVERSITY, M.B.A. CAREER: SUPERVISOR ADVANCED SUPPLIER QUALITY ENGINEERING, ALLISON TRANSMISSION</p>	
	<p>ELIZABETH RETANA</p> <p>HOMETOWN: OAKLAND CITY HIGH SCHOOL: WALDO J. WOOD MEMORIAL HIGH, CLASS OF '05 COLLEGE: INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON, B.S. KINESIOLOGY; MARIAN UNIVERSITY, M.A. TEACHING CAREER: SPECIAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR, CARPE DIEM - MERIDIAN</p>	



ALUMNI

PROFILES

JAROD WILSON

HOMETOWN:
HIGH SCHOOL:
COLLEGE:

ROCKVILLE
ROCKVILLE JR./SR. HIGH, CLASS OF '04
BUTLER UNIVERSITY, B.A. INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON, M.S. EDUCATION, HIGHER EDUCATION AND STUDENT AFFAIRS
OUTREACH COORDINATOR, INDIANA COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

CAREER:

Going to college was never a question in my mind. While I was a strong student academically and very involved in my community, the one major barrier that my parents and I faced was being able to afford the cost of tuition. I came from a working-class family that valued education, but was not in a financial position to fully pay for college. We were financially stable, but the idea of saving for college was not something that was feasible at the time.

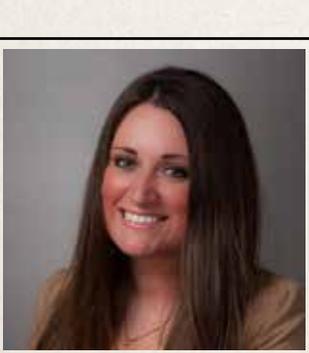
When I signed up for the 21st Century Scholars program in 7th grade, I wasn't fully aware of what was expected of me in order to fulfill the requirements, but I knew that I would try my hardest to complete them to the best of my ability. Multiple times throughout high school that I was tempted to get into trouble, but my mind always went back to the Scholar Pledge. The risk of losing the opportunity of going to college helped to keep me on a path to success.

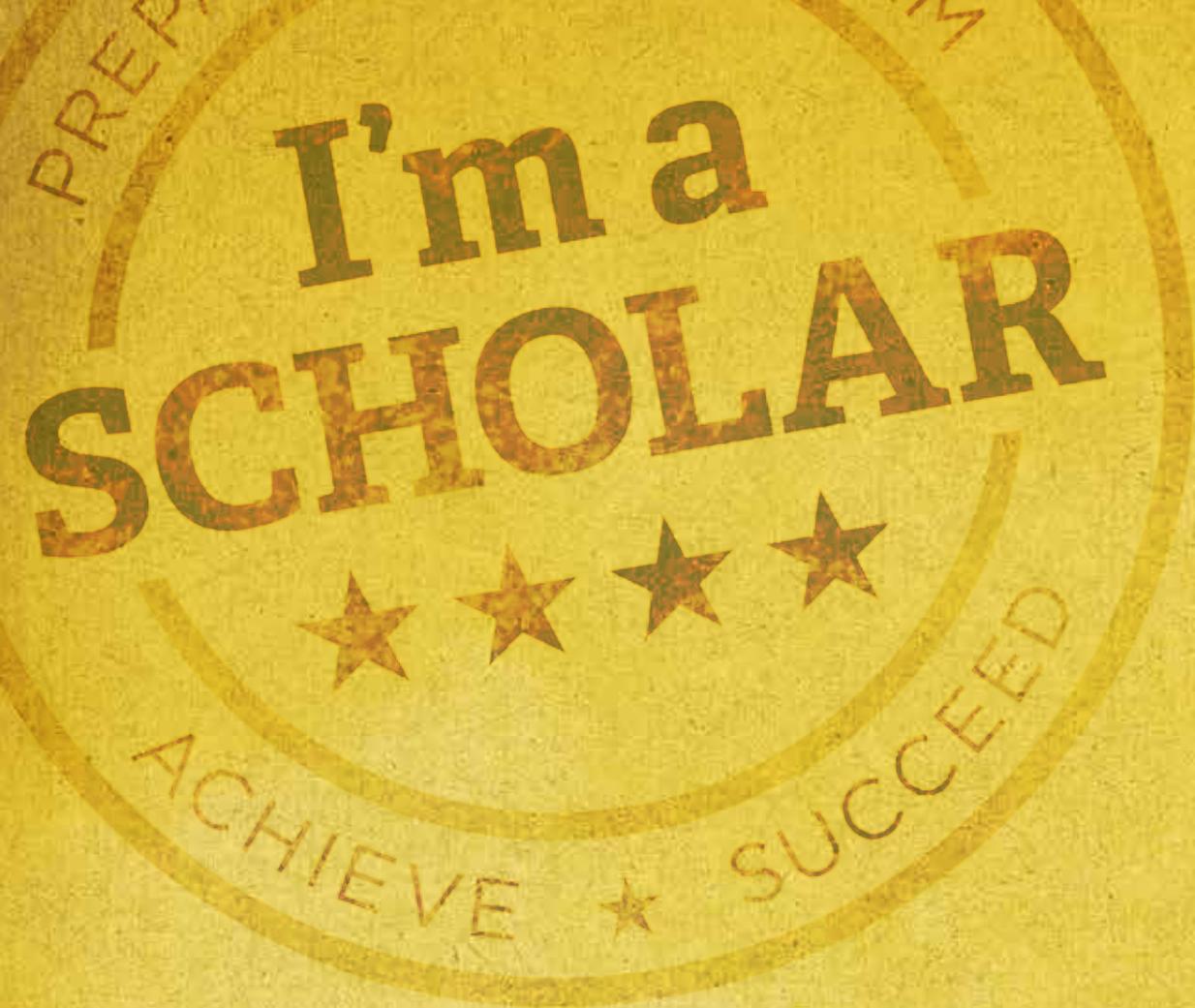
My senior year of high school, I knew that I wanted to attend Butler University and pursue a degree in International Studies. Receiving the 21st Century Scholarship made this a realistic goal. During my tenure at Butler, I learned about myself and about how to become a citizen within my own community and the world. I was able to travel abroad and learn about cultures outside of my own. I was active on campus and found a passion for giving back to others.

I went on to receive a Masters in Higher Education from Indiana University. With this degree, I have been able to make change in my world one student at a time and, now, working with the Commission for Higher Education, I have the opportunity to affect the lives of future Scholars. I'm thankful for the 21st Century Scholars program for giving me the opportunity to become the person I am today.

“I’m thankful for the 21st Century Scholars program for giving me the opportunity to become the person I am today.”

SCHOLAR ALUMNI PROFILES

	<h2 style="color: #0070C0;">DOMINIQUE VAUGHN</h2> <p>HOMETOWN: JEFFERSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL: JEFFERSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF '06 COLLEGE: PURDUE UNIVERSITY, B.S. PROFESSIONAL FLIGHT TECHNOLOGY PURDUE UNIVERSITY, M.S. AVIATION MANAGEMENT CAREER: COMMERCIAL PILOT, FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR (CFI/CFII), AND LECTURER</p>	
	<h2 style="color: #FFA500;">SARAH VINCENT</h2> <p>HOMETOWN: NORTH VERNON HIGH SCHOOL: JENNINGS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF '00 COLLEGE: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA, B.S. SOCIOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY INDIANA UNIVERSITY - PURDUE UNIVERSITY INDIANAPOLIS, M.A. SOCIOLOGY CAREER: MANAGER, JOBS FOR AMERICA'S GRADUATES</p>	
	<h2 style="color: #3CB371;">AMY WINKLER</h2> <p>HOMETOWN: FERDINAND HIGH SCHOOL: FOREST PARK JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF '95 COLLEGE: INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON, B.A. CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PSYCHOLOGY; INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON, M.P.A. AND M.S. IN SCHOOL COUNSELING CAREER: SCHOOL COUNSELOR, EDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL</p>	
	<h2 style="color: #8B0000;">CAITLIN WORM</h2> <p>HOMETOWN: NORTH LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL: JOHN GLENN HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF '06 COLLEGE: INDIANA UNIVERSITY SOUTH BEND, B.A. POLITICAL SCIENCE; UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, M.A. SOCIAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION CAREER: ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT, FAMILY & CHILDREN'S CENTER</p>	

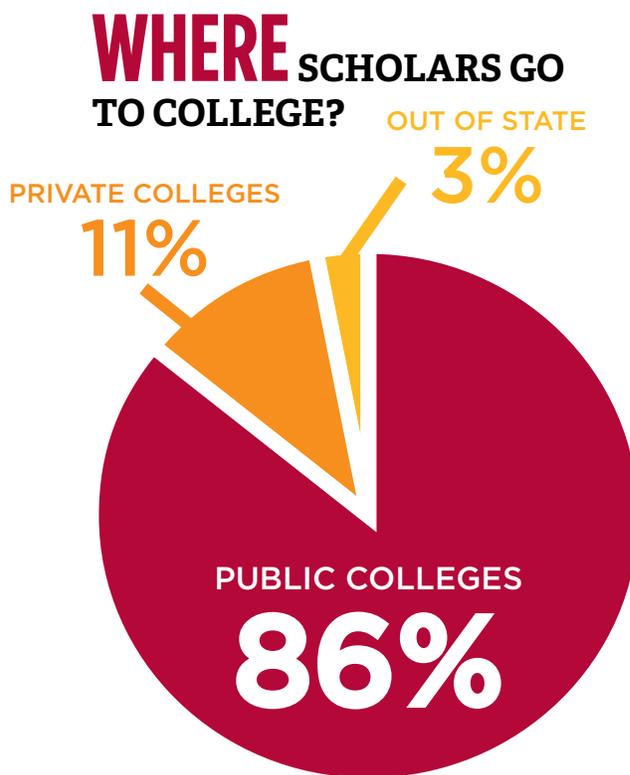


21st Century Scholars

Partner Profiles

SCHOLAR PARTNER PROFILES

Across Indiana local partners are stepping up to support 21st Century Scholars—from the time students enroll in middle school through college completion and beyond.



TOP 10 COLLEGES BY SCHOLAR ENROLLMENT:

1. IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE (19%)
2. INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY (10%)
3. IUPUI (9%)
4. IU BLOOMINGTON (9%)
5. BALL STATE UNIVERSITY (7%)
6. PURDUE WEST LAFAYETTE (6%)
7. VINCENNES UNIVERSITY (6%)
8. IPFW (4%)
9. UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA (3%)
10. IU SOUTH BEND (2%)

SCHOLAR PARTNER PROFILES

BENTON COUNTY COLLEGE SUCCESS COALITION



The Benton County College Success Coalition is part of a growing statewide network of local organizations working to increase the number of Hoosiers with education and training beyond high school. Founded in 2012, the Benton County College Success Coalition has more than 40 member organizations representing local business, community, education and government. Based on a careful analysis of student data spotlighting the community's unique challenges and opportunities, the Benton County College Success Coalition designs and implements targeted activities to help local families plan, prepare and pay for college.

Increasing support for Benton County's 21st Century Scholars is one of the group's top priorities. The coalition hosts enrollment and induction ceremonies for 21st Century Scholars, coordinates programs to ensure students meet Scholar Success Program requirements in high school, and employs a dedicated 21st Century Scholars intern to provide additional support for area Scholars and their families.

INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY



Indiana State University is committed to providing 21st Century Scholars the resources they need to graduate on time with a degree and experience that will prepare them for a successful future.

ISU is proud to have the most 21st Century Scholars on any single campus in the state. Nearly 30 percent of the 2015 freshmen class were 21st Century Scholars.

Indiana State University launched ScholarCorps in 2012 to build Scholars' pride and aspirations to achieve. Today, it is among ISU's most vibrant student organizations, with students highly engaged in leadership positions throughout campus and in the community. As a result of this effort, Scholar retention has risen 2.5 percentage points faster than non-Scholar retention and the percentage of freshmen and sophomores staying on-track for on-time degree completion has doubled. The ISU On-Track Summer Scholarship rewards Scholars who remain on-track with up to six free credit hours and a book scholarship.

SCHOLAR PARTNER PROFILES

INDIANA UNIVERSITY



Recognizing the need for additional financial support for Indiana's 21st Century Scholars, Indiana University created the 21st Century Scholarship Covenant in 2007 to supplement the 21st Century Scholarship—the first scholarship of its kind in Indiana. The supplemental scholarship helps Scholars pay for costs not covered with their 21st Century Scholarship, such as food and textbooks. Scholars who stay current in the program and affirm their scholarship meet the eligibility requirements for the Covenant and are automatically considered for the award.

IU's 21st Century Scholars Office is a hub for resources to help students persist and excel in college. IU also established Volunteer Corps to help connect Scholars with community service opportunities aligned to their individual interests and areas of student. The program has since been expanded to include IU's entire student body.

INDIANA YOUTH INSTITUTE



The Indiana Youth Institute is a non-profit organization committed to promoting the healthy development of Indiana children and youth by serving the people, institutions and communities that impact their well-being. IYI provides critical support for the 21st Century Scholars program by sharing information and resources through its network of youth workers who help low-income students find, qualify for, and use the 21st Century Scholarship.

In 2009, IYI partnered with the Indiana Commission for Higher Education to create the Indiana College Success Mentoring Initiative. In collaboration with local non-profit organizations and high schools in six Indiana communities, the initiative connects participating 21st Century Scholars with mentors beginning in their freshman year of high school. These mentors provide continuing support through high school graduation and into college. The multi-year effort culminated with the creation of the "College & Career Success Mentoring Toolkit," a free, comprehensive resource designed to help other communities establish impactful, long-lasting mentoring programs that emphasize college- and career-readiness and student success.

SCHOLAR PARTNER PROFILES

IVY TECH
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE



MARIAN
UNIVERSITY

MARIAN UNIVERSITY
— Indianapolis —®

Ivy Tech Community College enrolls more 21st Century Scholars across its 32 campuses than any other college system in the state. Ivy Tech is a key partner for the Indiana Commission for Higher Education and provides a home for regional outreach coordinators who work with area colleges, school districts and community organizations.

Ivy Tech campuses engage in intensive coaching of their 21st Century Scholar students to help them identify potential obstacles, create success plans, determine priorities and take short-term actions to meet their long-term goals. Ivy Tech was one of three colleges that took place in Indiana's pilot of the College Success Coaching program for 21st Century Scholars. Achieving a nearly 9 percentage-point increase in Scholar retention at Ivy Tech in only one year, the lessons learned from this pilot will serve as a model for similar programs at colleges around the state.

Marian University's 21st Century Scholars receive hands-on guidance and support services to help them adjust to, persist in, and eventually graduate from college. Helping Scholars succeed is such a priority at Marian that the college dedicates a full-time staff member to lead its Office of 21st Century Scholars and coordinate 21st Century Scholar support programs. Marian's Scholars get special support and guidance in leadership development, mentoring opportunities, co-curricular experiences, academic support services, volunteer opportunities, and advising.

Each year, 25 incoming scholars are chosen to receive Marian University's 21st Century Scholars Tuition Scholarship to cover any remaining tuition and fees not covered by the 21st Century Scholars program. These scholarships are awarded by the selection committee based on candidates' record of achievement, potential contribution to Marian University, and potential benefit to the program.

SCHOLAR PARTNER PROFILES

PROJECT LEADERSHIP



Project Leadership is a Muncie-based non-profit organization dedicated to increasing high school and college completion rates in Delaware and Grant counties. It was founded in 2000 with a Lilly Endowment grant, and supporting the area's 21st Century Scholars was a key feature of Project Leadership's student support strategy early on. Scholar-focused efforts expanded in 2007, when the group entered into a partnership with the 21st Century Scholars program and area schools to increase Scholar enrollment at the middle school level. Project Leadership designed and launched a mentoring program to support Scholars during the high school years to ensure they met all requirements of the Scholar Pledge. Today, their program includes post-secondary mentoring and a wide range of college access and support services.

Project Leadership is guided by a mission to help students 1) find their way in the career/major path that fits best with their interests and aptitudes, 2) learn the critical steps for how to pay for a post-secondary education, and 3) develop a plan to stay on their post-secondary path through successful completion.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY



Purdue University provides comprehensive services to support its 21st Century Scholars, including a variety of mentoring and financial support programs.

One successful example is the Purdue Promise, which seeks to minimize barriers to success and provide individualized care and coaching to retain students and make sure they complete their degrees. Through a combination of support services and financial aid, Purdue Promise helps make attaining a college degree from Purdue a reality.

Purdue is also a ScholarCorps support campus, helping those Scholars who are not served by the Purdue Promise program. Academic supports include free tutoring, mentoring, leadership training, pro-active advising and more.

SCHOLAR PARTNER PROFILES

STARFISH INITIATIVE



The Starfish Initiative inspires, encourages, and prepares students for college and career success through an intensive one-on-one mentoring model as well as college, career, and leadership focused events. Nearly 100 percent of Starfish students are 21st Century Scholars. Over the past six years, 100 percent of Starfish Scholars graduated high school, 98 percent enrolled immediately in college, and 74 percent have earned or are enrolled for a quality post-secondary degree or credential.

Starfish was founded in 2003 by a group of local businessmen who were concerned that many of the academically promising but economically disadvantaged students in Indianapolis were not getting the preparation for post-secondary education they needed to be the future leaders of the community. Currently, Starfish serves approximately 340 students in 40 public, private, charter and magnet high schools.

VINCENNES UNIVERSITY



Vincennes University has a large 21st Century Scholar population and is very active with the state's ScholarCorps program to provide on-campus mentoring and support. In fact, in the Fall 2013 semester alone VU provided instructional services to 749 Scholars.

VU has fully embraced the ScholarCorps program by pairing volunteer coaches with 21st Century Scholars during their freshman year to assist them through the rigors of college. ScholarCorps members are mentors that "bridge the gap" by meeting one-on-one with students to support their personal, academic, and career needs.

VU is proud of its commitment to helping first-generation, low-income and underrepresented learners grow personally and professionally to achieve the goal of creating better futures for tomorrow.

21st Century Scholars 2014 STATE SCORECARD

Entering College

	SCHOLARS	NON-SCHOLARS LOW-INCOME	ALL INDIANA STUDENTS
COLLEGE ACCESS Indiana students entering any college directly after high school.	76%	42%	65%
COLLEGE READINESS Indiana students entering college without needing remediation.	72%	61%	77%

During College

	SCHOLARS	NON-SCHOLARS LOW-INCOME	ALL INDIANA STUDENTS
COLLEGE PERFORMANCE Indiana public college students who earn a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher.	58%	57%	68%
COLLEGE RETENTION Indiana public college students who persist from the first to second year.	72%	67%	76%
ON-TIME COLLEGE COMPLETION Indiana public college students who earn an associate degree within 2 years or a bachelor's degree within 4 years.	20%	14%	25%
EXTENDED-TIME COLLEGE COMPLETION Indiana public college students who earn an associate degree within 3 years or a bachelor's degree within 6 years.	35%	24%	44%



2-year colleges & 4-year colleges

	SCHOLARS		NON-SCHOLARS LOW-INCOME		ALL INDIANA STUDENTS	
	4-year	2-year	4-year	2-year	4-year	2-year
COLLEGE PERFORMANCE	62%	46%	65%	43%	74%	50%
COLLEGE RETENTION	81%	54%	82%	47%	86%	54%
ON-TIME COLLEGE COMPLETION	25%	5%	21%	3%	32%	6%
EXTENDED-TIME COLLEGE COMPLETION	44%	13%	42%	10%	56%	12%

Data Sources: Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Indiana Department of Education, and National Student Clearinghouse.

College Access: Defined as 2013 Indiana high school graduates who: 1) were eligible and affirmed as 21st Century Scholars in 12th grade and 2) enrolled in postsecondary education in FY2014.

College Readiness: Defined as 2013 Indiana high school graduates who: 1) were eligible and affirmed as 21st Century Scholars in 12th grade; 2) enrolled in an Indiana public college in FY2014; and 3) were not enrolled in remedial English/Language Arts or Math courses in FY2014.

College Performance: Defined as 2013 Indiana high school graduates who 1) received the 21st Century Scholars grant in that year and 2) had a spring semester cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher. Excludes students not enrolled in spring 2013 or with no GPA data reported for spring 2013.

College Retention: Defined as 2012 Indiana high school graduates who 1) received the 21st Century Scholars grant in that year and 2) enrolled in an Indiana public college in FY2013; and 3) were still enrolled in an Indiana public college in FY2014.

College Completion (On-time): Defined as first-time resident students enrolled full time in fall 2012 (for associate) or fall 2010 (for bachelor's) who 1) received the 21st Century Scholars grant in that year and 2) completed the associate or bachelor's degree by August 2014.

College Completion (Extended-time): Defined as first-time resident students enrolled full time in fall 2011 (for associate) or fall 2008 (for bachelor's) who 1) received the 21st Century Scholars grant in that year and 2) completed the associate or bachelor's degree by August 2014.

Non-Scholars Low-Income: for 'entering college' metrics, consists of students who participated in the free or reduced lunch program who were not classified as affirmed Scholars; for 'during college' metrics, consists of students who received a federal Pell grant and did not receive the 21st Century Scholarship.

All Indiana Students: includes all resident Indiana students regardless of socioeconomic or financial aid status.

SCHOLAR SUPPORT INITIATIVES

A GROWING STATEWIDE NETWORK OF ORGANIZATIONS HELPING HOOSIERS COMPLETE EDUCATION AND TRAINING BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL.



A GROUP OF FORMER 21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS COMMITTED TO GIVING BACK TO THE PROGRAM BY PROVIDING MENTORSHIP AND SUPPORT FOR THE NEXT GENERATIONS OF SCHOLARS.



SCHOLARCORPS MEMBERS WORK DIRECTLY WITH SCHOLARS AT INDIANA COLLEGES, CONNECTING THEM TO ON-CAMPUS SERVICES AND A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT.



**GE
SS
RS**

CARING ADULTS WHO GUIDE AND SUPPORT SCHOLARS THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AND COLLEGE COMPLETION.

**SCHOLAR
ADVISORY
COUNCIL**

A GROUP OF EDUCATION, BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS WHO GUIDE AND SUPPORT THE 21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS PROGRAM AND ITS ACTIVITIES.

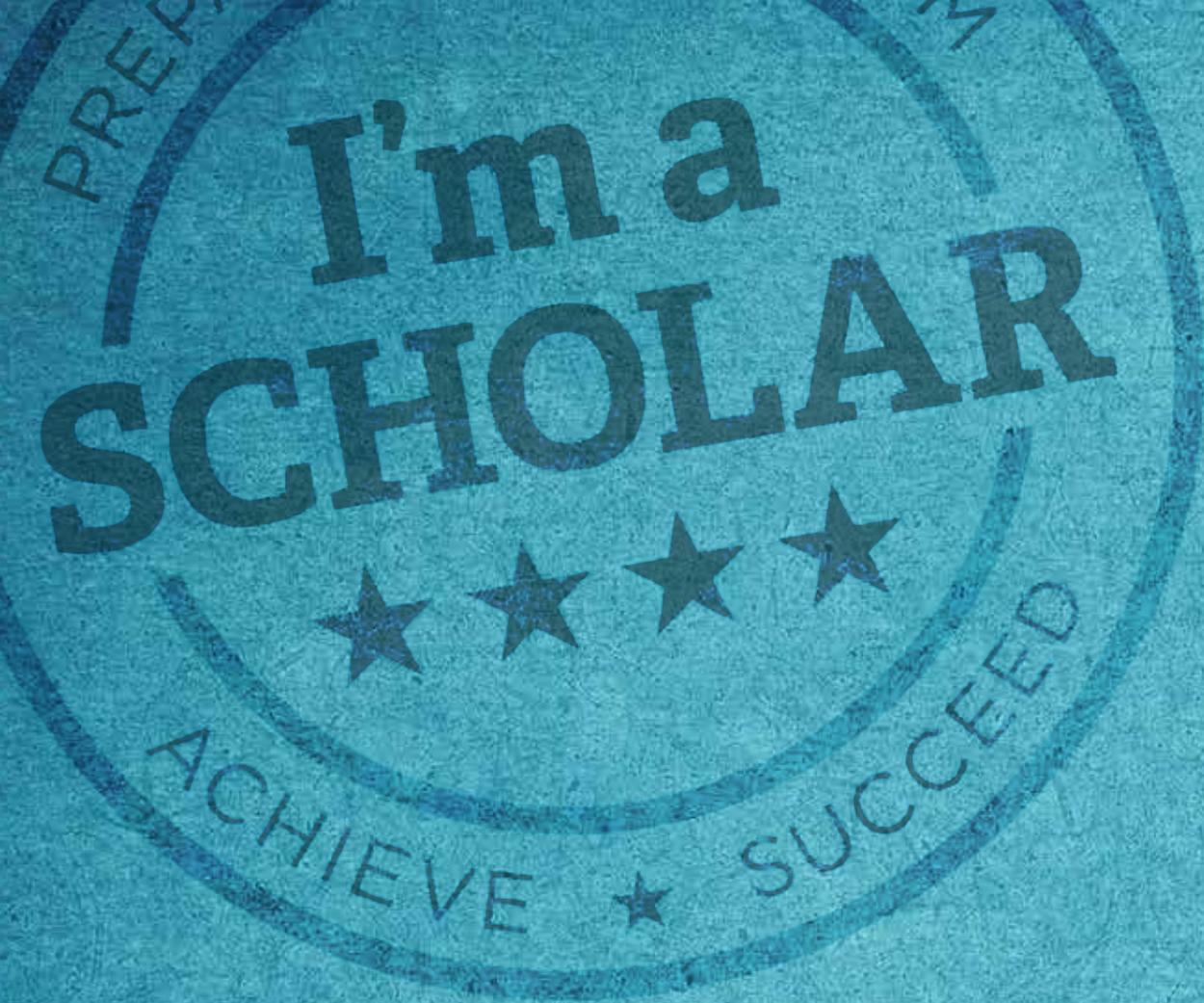
**ntury
LARS
ANA**

**COLLEGE
SUCCESS
COACHES**

A STATE INITIATIVE CURRENTLY PROVIDING PHONE-BASED COLLEGE COACHING SERVICES TO 21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS ON 27 INDIANA CAMPUSES.

**OUTREACH
COORDINATORS**

THE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION'S REGIONAL OUTREACH STAFF ENGAGE LOCAL COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO INCREASE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT FOR SCHOLARS—AND ALL INDIANA STUDENTS.



21st Century Scholars

We Need Your Help

BECOME A COALITION MEMBER

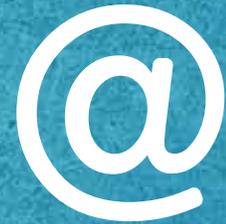
Indiana's College Success Coalition is a network of organizations across the state of Indiana working to increase college access and success. Member organizations include local businesses, government, colleges, schools, community groups, youth-serving organizations, service clubs, community foundations, faith-based organizations and more. All organizations implement small or large college and career planning activities designed to help students take the necessary steps to get into and succeed in college. Learn more about joining or forming a coalition in your area at LearnMoreIndiana.org.



Scholars.IN.gov

JOIN THE SCHOLAR ALUMNI NETWORK

Give back to the program that helped you succeed in college, and connect with other Scholars from across the state. Be the first to receive new information about special events and more. You're eligible as an alumni if you: 1) fulfilled all 21st Century Scholars Program requirements and 2) Earned a postsecondary degree or certificate. Learn more about joining the Scholar Alumni Network at Scholars.IN.gov.



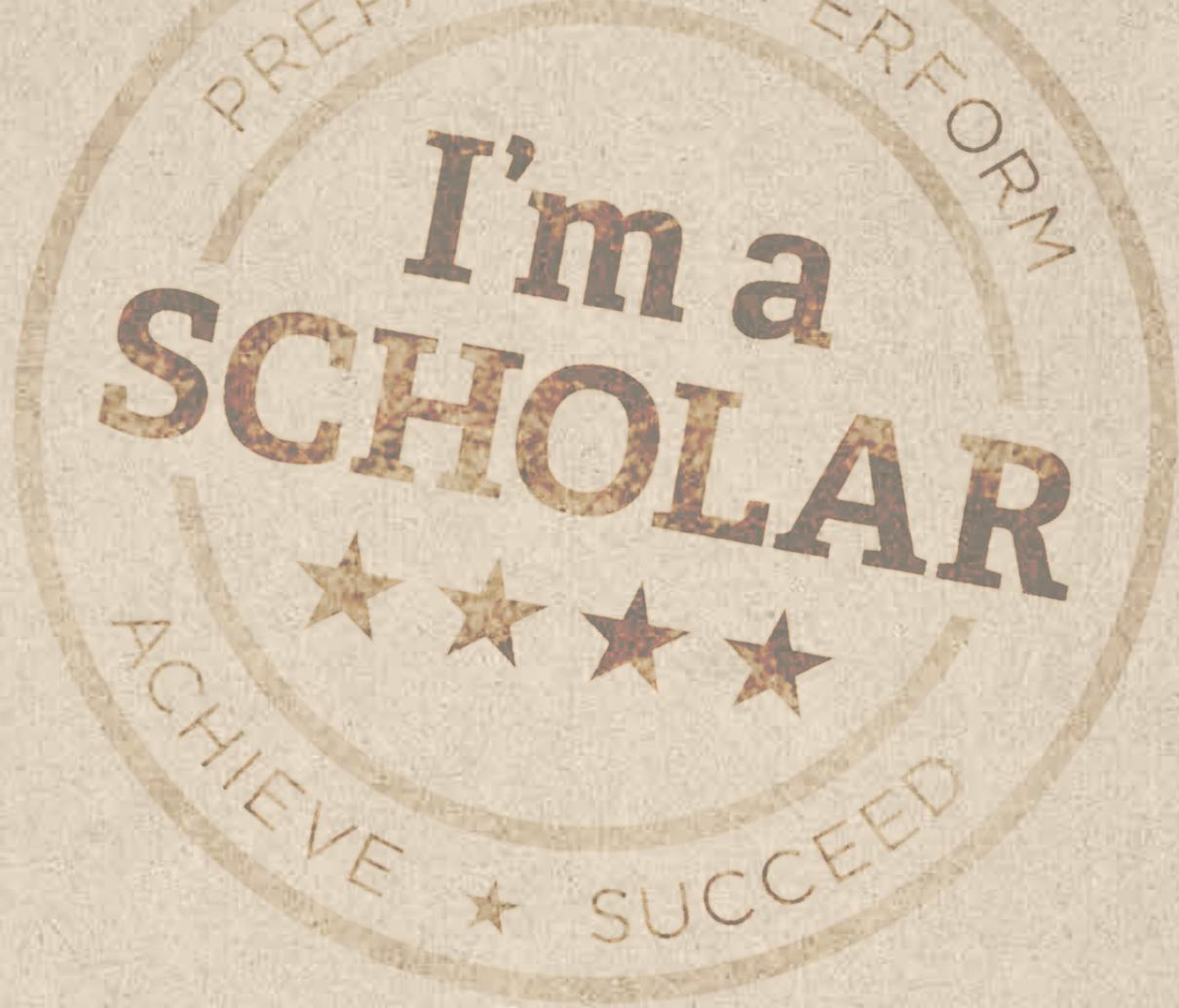
Scholars@che.IN.gov

DONATE TO 21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS

The 21st Century Scholarship pays for tuition and mandatory fees at eligible Indiana colleges. The 21st Century Scholars Support fund was created to help Scholars with other unmet educational needs, including books and room and board. Hoosiers can donate to the fund when filing their Indiana taxes through the 21st Century Scholars Program Tax Credit or by sending a check payable to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education with a letter stating the purpose of the donation.



1-888-528-4719



INDIANA COMMISSION *for*
HIGHER EDUCATION