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INDIANA EDUCATION INSIGHT

Virus to drive families to virtuals?

Concerned parents may avoid waiting game and worrying

Virtual schools in Indiana are reporting a significant surge in interest and inquiries for the upcoming school year, although this has not necessarily translated into an increase in new enrollments, as families wait to see just what the Governor will announce in July.

In case they need to serve more students, virtual schools are starting to add more seats.

Indiana Connections Academy, part of the Pearson Online and Blended Learning network, is requesting an amendment to its charter agreement with Ball State University to increase its enrollment cap by 1,000 spots. This would allow the full-time virtual school to enroll a maximum of 7,000 students.

Indiana Digital Learning School, operated by K12 Inc., has requested and received approval from Union School Corporation to lift its enrollment cap for 2020-2021 by 2,000 students. As a result, IDLS will be able to enroll up to 6,000 students this Fall.

Safety is the number one reason given by parents for choosing virtual schools, said Kevin Chavous, president of academics, policy, and schools for K12 Inc., during a Zoom webinar held this month by The Center for Education Reform. "If parents don't feel that their local district is safe, they are going to be looking for alternatives," he cautioned.

Virtual schools have three major advantages in this new normal, said Chavous, who was born and raised in Indianapolis and graduated from Wabash College. They offer a secure technology platform, curriculum that's already tailor made for virtual delivery, and teachers who are skilled at doing online learning well.

"Probably the most important thing is teacher training," Chavous says. "A great teacher in brick and mortar can be great online. But a great teacher in brick and mortar who is not trained in online will not be great. Teacher training is something districts need to really, really focus on."

Whenever attendance is not safe or must be limited, schools will need blended learning. Even if schools are able to open for in-person instruction in August or September, there could be a resurgence of the virus later on, and because of physical distancing requirements, class sizes will have to be reduced, possibly to 10-15 kids. Expect enrollment splits, where half of students attend in the morning, and half come in during the afternoon, or half attend on even-numbered days and half come in on odd-numbered days. When students are not at school, learning would continue online.

Dennis Costerison, executive director of the Indiana Association of School Business Officials, has been in non-stop Zoom meetings with school officials all across the state. "It's the same message everywhere," he said. "Everyone is concerned that parents are saying they are not going to send their kids back, or they are going to delay when they send their kids back."

Opening up school while adhering to physical distancing is going to be an extraordinary challenge, says Costerison. Take transportation. If buses are limited to one student per seat, will districts need to purchase more buses? Run more routes? Hire more drivers? "I don't know of a school district that wasn't struggling to find bus drivers even before the pandemic," says Costerison.

Formulating Fall-back plans

Higher ed faces higher consternation

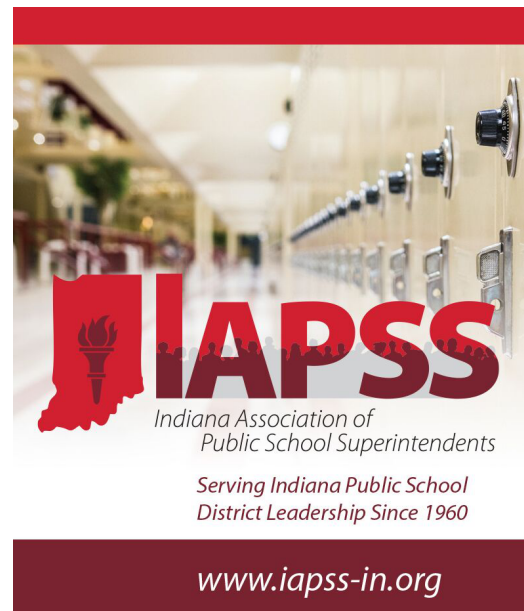
Hoosier colleges and universities are forging ahead with the restoration of on-campus classes this Fall while assembling contingency plans for remote learning if the virus spikes.

Almost every school has issued a statement over the past two weeks saying they look forward to welcoming students back to campus come August. A few are even planning to have students on campus in July for customary early start programs.

Institutions are ramping up protocols for Covid-19 testing, contact tracing, and quarantine/isolation of ill and exposed individuals. The new normal will also necessitate scrupulous use of hand sanitizer, disinfection and cleaning, observance of six-foot physical distancing, physical barriers, daily symptom self-assessment, and face masks.

Academic calendars are being adjusted to reduce opportunities for students to leave campus, and to wrap up before Thanksgiving, in a bid to mitigate against a resurgence of the coronavirus during flu season.

Private colleges located in more rural areas are touting their location as an advantage. Many more important decisions still have to be made and communicated about how to move forward in a way that keeps students and staff healthy and safe.



IN Elementary & Secondary Ed

IN General . . .

● Superintendent of Public Instruction **Jennifer McCormick (R)** tweeted Monday: “With revenue forecasts looking bleak & questionable property tax collections, IN’s continual expansion of choice makes no sense. The competition & money follows the child arguments are really bad arguments when ALL existing schools are going to struggle to maintain operations.”

● U.S. Sen. **Mike Braun (R)** has written to Superintendent of Public Instruction **Jennifer McCormick (R)** reiterating the U.S. Department of Education provided “guidance to states to properly disburse money to non-public schools for these equitable services,” and reminding her that “Indiana’s robust school choice policy efforts have allowed all children the same educational opportunities regardless of their household income or zip code. Non-public schools are an important part in our state’s effort to provide educational opportunities for all students and of all backgrounds.” He tells her that, accordingly, “I was disappointed to find that you instructed Indiana public school districts to ignore guidance from the U.S. Department of Education and deprive non-public schools from much needed relief funds.” Sen. Braun closes by telling the superintendent he has “urged the U.S. Department of Education to reach out to your office to encourage you to disburse properly the federal funds Indiana has been allocated by federal taxpayers. At the same time, I implore you to disburse these funds according to the U.S. Department of Education’s guidance.”

● The State Board of Education at its May business meeting approved \$18 million in Common School Fund technology advancements for 39 school districts to purchase or lease more than 34,000 student laptops, 3,500 student iPads, and 1,500 teacher devices.

● Hoosier students lost an average of 56 in-person school days to the coronavirus closures, according to calculations by the Indiana Department of Education. Schools shuttered statewide March 13, and the most common end date for the school year is May 29. The 56 missed days is equivalent to 11 five-day school weeks, or 31% of a normal 180-day calendar.

● The House Republican Campaign Committee is the beneficiary of a \$100,000 May 7 contribution from the Carmel-based Hoosiers for Great Public Schools PAC run by former Indianapolis mayor **Bart Peterson (D)** of the Christel House Schools network of public charter schools and **Caryl Auslander**. One day earlier, the PAC received a \$200,000 contribution from Houston-based hedge fund manager **John Arnold**. The transactions represent the entire activity in the political action committee’s existence. During the same week, **Christel DeHaan** kicked in \$60,000 of her own to HRCC.

● The Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation teams with the Indianapolis E-Learning Fund to issue a Request for Proposals seeking partners to supply/build and/or operate/maintain a private network for e-learning for the 11 public school districts and 50 public charter schools in Marion County and the approximately 152,000 students they collectively serve. An estimated 39,000 Marion County students lack an adequate high-speed internet connection for e-learning at their residence as of the end of April, according to the RFP, and some 44,000 devices are still needed for student e-learning.

□ Solutions are sought for “full wireless connectivity of the entire Marion County school’s student population for ongoing and sustained e-learning curriculum.” The ideal platform will ensure schools “can provide all students with internet access that is set to e-learning” while restricting personal internet usage “i.e., gaming, streaming movies, non-curriculum content.” The dedicated e-learning network should be deployed and activated by July 1, 2021. The Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation is overseeing the collection of proposals and distribution to the schools for their consideration, as well as aggregating responses to each proposal submitted and communicating responses back to each vendor. Responses were due to RMFF President and CEO **Claire Fiddian-Green** by May 18.

● As schools consider how to protect at-risk employees who may be disproportionately affected by Covid-19, demographic data from the Indiana Department of Education shows 8.5% of Hoosier educators are over the age of 60. If these older teachers are not able to safely and productively work in classrooms this Fall, there could be major staffing shortages and challenges ahead.

● Senate Committee on Appropriations Chair Sen. **Ryan Mishler (R)** of Bremen signaled what the Fall semester may look like during an online meeting arranged by the local chamber of commerce, reports **InkFreeNews** in Kosciusko County.

□ Sen. Mishler “advocates reopening classes in the fall and threw out the idea of a hybrid schedule – if necessary – in which there would be a mix of in-class instruction and virtual instruction so schools could reduce the number of students in classrooms. A fallback plan, he said, would allow parents to opt-out of sending their youngsters to school if they have concerns and then have those students participate in a ‘virtual’ environment. Under that scenario, schools would have to be able to track participation and that credit would be lost if students don’t remain involved in the virtual classroom. Those who don’t want to attend classes in person should not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities, Mishler said.”

□ Sen. Mishler also tossed out some discouraging news for educators during the online event. “I hate to use the word ‘cut’ for K-12, but unfortunately, everything has got to be on the table,” he added.

● The Governor indicated that he plans to announce guidance and expectations for the Fall semester shortly before the July 4 holiday, but some school officials hope he will weigh in a bit sooner. “Our first day of school is the fifth day of August, and if we waited until July 4, that gives us a month to prepare, and that would not be enough time,” said **Greg Walker**, superintendent of Paoli Community Schools, according to **WDRB-TV** in Louisville.

● **Brownsburg Community School Corporation** has for many years limited the number of foreign exchange students allowed to attend Brownsburg High School to three per year given capacity constraints. With the nearly complete renovation and expansion of the high school, the district had intended to accept several more international students during the upcoming school year, but alas, those plans have likely been dashed due to the coronavirus travel restrictions.

● The Indiana Finance Authority is again accepting applications for its Lead Sampling Program in schools. The deadline to apply for free testing is August 17. IFA is in the process of applying for another U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant, which would pay for costs associated with the actual remediation, not just the testing.

● Greenwood Community School Corporation leases 1,550 Chromebooks for \$350,500, but they'll be staying in the classroom rather than distributed to students.

● Jay County School Corporation Board of Trustees votes 6-1 to approve a hold harmless grading policy for the fourth quarter allowing students to receive the better of their two grades from the third and fourth quarter grading periods. "There's a measure of grace in this," said Superintendent Jeremy Gulley, reports the *Portland Commercial Review*.

● Lake Station Community Schools organized curb-side drop off and pick up of elementary student learning packets . . . and the precautions were evident.

□ "School staff will come to your car to take your student packet and give you the new packet. Please, DO NOT leave your vehicle." Families were directed to make and hold up a sign visible from the passenger side window showing their child's last name, grade, and teacher. "For your safety, our staff will have their temperatures taken and they will have masks and gloves."

● Early Learning Indiana launches the Come Back Stronger Fund with the support of a \$15.7 million grant from Lilly Endowment. The fund will offer grants to offset expenses incurred by early education providers adapting to the new normal.

□ "In the best of times, early learning providers operate on razor-thin margins due to the imbalance between the cost of providing care and families' ability to afford it," said Early Learning Indiana CEO Maureen Weber. "As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the path forward is even more precarious with added safety-related expenses and uncertainty around enrollment and staffing. This funding will help providers make necessary operational changes to deliver safe and high-quality early learning services that are critical for Hoosier families and the state's economic recovery."

IN Administration . . .

● As the Tri-Township School Corporation considers closing LaCrosse High School, Ratio Architects is conducting an assessment of the cost of rehabilitating the school to meet modern safety, education, and accessibility standards.

□ The study is being funded in part by Indiana Landmarks and an Efroymson Family Endangered Places Grant. Results are expected by the end of May.

IN Budgets & Finance . . .

● Ohio is cutting \$300million from K-12 schools and Michigan has outlined \$1.2B in education funding cuts. Here in Indiana, a new school funding formula is scheduled to take effect July 1, and what you need to watch for is whether the administration decides to flatline the Fiscal Year 2021 formula at the FY 2020 level. That would equate to about \$180million that schools would not receive.

● Gary Schools Recovery, an affiliate of MGT of America Consulting, puts forth a three-year financial plan for ending state control of the Gary Community School Corporation and restoring the authority of the local school board, as the state's Distressed Unit Appeal Board prepares to vote on a contract extension for the Emergency Manager.

□ The *Gary Post-Tribune* reported that Rep. Vernon Smith (D) of Gary "praised MGT for its fiscal leadership, but maintained it hasn't improved academics. He asked that MGT be given a one-year contract, not three years." The *Times of Northwest Indiana* reported that Eric Parish, vice president of MGT, conceded that, "Academics is the slowest to turn."

● Gary Recovery Schools, LLC requests community feedback on how to spend roughly \$470,000 per month (for the next 4.5 years) that will become available for capital projects beginning July 1 thanks to House Enrolled Act 1065-2020. The Emergency Manager seeks input on the community's preference for prioritizing improvements to occupied facilities versus demolition of long-abandoned buildings.

● The West Central School Corporation in Francesville is "starting the process to refinance bonds for the corporation's

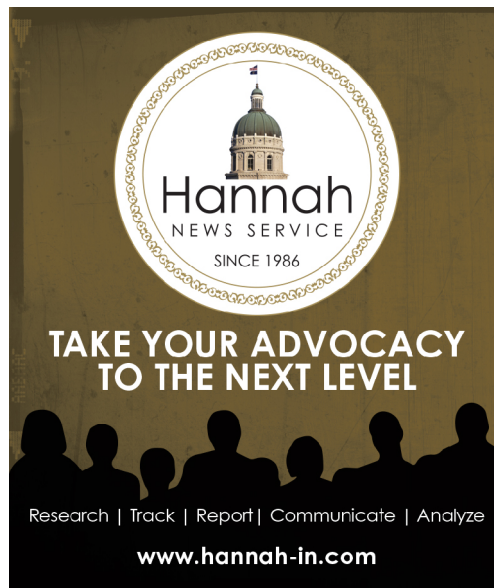
wind turbine," reports WKVI 99.3-FM in Knoxville.

IN Contracts & Compensation . . .

● Knox Community School Corporation approves a 10% premium on the hourly pay rate for classified employees who have had to work between April 13 and May 22.

● West Central School Corporation plans to issue Reduction in Force notices to 2.5 positions in the bargaining unit.

● Sunman-Dearborn Community School Corporation reaches agreement with the teachers association on a memorandum of understanding that will freeze teacher compensation in the next school year – the second year of the collective bargaining agreement. Teachers will not receive any base salary increases, and the amount paid by the school corporation towards the annual cost of health insurance premiums has been frozen. The original CBA provided teachers rated Highly Effective or Effective with a base pay bump of \$1,750. Teachers who attain additional graduate-level credits in any education-related field had been in line for an additional raise of \$1,500.



□ The Sunman Dearborn Educators Association agreed to forego raises to meet budget constraints caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

● Eastern Pulaski School Corporation offers “appreciation pay” in the form of an extra \$5 per hour for about 30 staff members who have continued to come into the buildings to work during the pandemic.

● Union School Corporation agrees to pay coaches one-half of the stipends they would have earned if the pandemic hadn’t shut down the Spring athletic season.

● Anderson Community School Corporation and the Anderson Federation of Teachers agree to a temporary one-year suspension of the cap on the number of unused vacation days that may be bought out.

IN Non-Public Schools . . .

● Holy Cross in Indianapolis receives a waiver from the State Board of Education allowing the non-public Catholic school to enroll new choice scholarship students.

□ Because Holy Cross placed in one of the lowest two categories of school performance for three consecutive school years, the private school was, absent a waiver, prohibited from enrolling new choice scholarship students until it received two consecutive grades of at least C or higher. Holy Cross received a C for the 2018-2019 school year. SBOE determined that the school met the criteria for a waiver because a majority of its students demonstrated academic progress in English/language arts and math. Holy Cross has received school turnaround services from the University of Notre Dame’s Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) since 2016.

□ Based on the ACE governance model for hiring and evaluating school leaders, a new principal was hired to begin the 2019-2020 school year. Principal Cara Swinefurth led St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School as principal from 2012 through 2019 and led Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School from 2005 through 2012.

□ Holy Cross also reconstituted at the end of the 2018-2019 school year by requiring all teachers to re-apply and interview for his or her position for Fall 2019. The school replaced six classroom teachers who had demonstrated low student growth on NWEA MAP and ISTEP. As a result of not being able to enroll new choice scholarship students for the 2019-2020 school year, Holy Cross canceled two of its pre-school programs, affecting approximately 40 preschoolers who otherwise would have received pre-kindergarten services. Heather Willey, a partner at Barnes & Thornburg LLP, serves as legal counsel for ACE.

● The State Board of Education recently received several requests from organizations seeking to be recognized as a third-party accrediting body. If approved, these would be the first additions to the list in almost 10 years.

● Independence Academy in Indianapolis receives a “null” placement after successfully appealing its AF accountability. The school serves adolescents with high-functioning autism, and 97% of its students receive special education services.

□ Effective July 1, 2019, the General Assembly amended state law to provide that “the state board shall develop alternative benchmarks, performance indicators, and accountability standards to be used in the assessment of schools that focus primarily on providing an academic program for students with developmental, intellectual, or behavioral challenges.” Previously, alternative accountability systems were permitted only for schools that focus exclusively on students with developmental, intellectual, or behavioral challenges.

□ Although the change from exclusively to primarily was not effective until after the 2018-2019 school year, the hearing officer determined that it should be applied retroactively. The State Board of Education has not adopted the alternative accountability system as required by statute. The hearing officer determined that Independence should not be penalized for the failure of the Board to implement the amended statute.

● In *Payne-Elliott v. Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Inc.*, No. 49D01-1907-PL-027728, the Marion County Superior Court issues an order denying the motion to dismiss filed by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis in the lawsuit brought by a gay former Cathedral High School teacher. The case involves claims that the Archdiocese impermissibly interfered with the teacher’s employment and contract with Cathedral High School. Joshua Payne-Elliott was terminated by Cathedral in June 2019 at the direction of the Archdiocese because of his same-sex marriage (to a teacher at Brebeuf, another Catholic high school in Indianapolis), after the Archdiocese allegedly threatened to issue a canonical decree withdrawing its recognition of Cathedral as a Catholic institution.

□ A key issue in the case is whether Payne-Elliott’s role as a teacher meets the definition of a minister; the ministerial exception bars state tort claims. In its May 1 ruling, the Court questioned whether the Archdiocese had the “authority” to determine whether Payne-Elliott was a “minister,” when it did not have the authority to terminate Payne-Elliott’s teaching contract with Cathedral. Payne-Elliott disputes that he was a minister, and Cathedral has not definitely expressed a position.

□ In the order, “The Court determines that the issue of whether Payne-Elliott was a minister cannot be determined without additional discovery, specifically discovery relating to who had the authority to make the ministerial decision, whether a ministerial decision was actually made, or whether this is being brought up at this time simply as a defense. The facts that: a) Cathedral and Payne-Elliott entered into a teachers contract for 2019-2020, and b) the president of Cathedral indicated to Payne-Elliott that he felt like he had a gun to his head both call into question whether the decision to terminate Payne-Elliott was actually made because Payne-Elliott was a ‘minister’ violating his position as a minister or for some other reason, such as potentially losing one’s tax status.”

IN Policy & Programs . . .

● The Anderson Community School Corporation receives school board approval for a change to the snow day policy.

□ After the first snow day, all subsequent ACS snow days will feature “on-demand elearning,” meaning elearning will take place on the day of the closure.

● The Indiana Department of Education announced 12 additional Indiana schools are now certified in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The total of Indiana STEM Certified schools is now 90.

● The Indiana Department of Education is offering and funding computer science professional development opportunities from five providers: CodeHS (Grades 9-12), IndianaComputes! (Grades K-12), Indiana University School of Informatics and Computing (Grades 9-12), Nextech (Grades K-12), and Project Lead The Way (Grades 6-12).

● The Indiana Department of Education is pursuing a competitive federal education grant that could bring millions of dollars into the state for teacher training for technology and online and remote course access.

● Relocation possibilities for The Academy of Science and Entrepreneurship are under discussion by the Monroe County Community School Corporation school board.

● The Indiana Department of Education and Indiana Department of Child Services release the second annual *Foster Care Data Report*, which counts 16,894 school-aged foster youth (pre-kindergarten through 12th grade) in Indiana public schools. Only 382 of 691 foster care youth (55.3%) graduated high school in 2019. Students in foster care are four times more likely to be expelled and 2½ times more likely to be suspended than the general student population.

● The Indiana High School Athletic Association Board of Directors votes to amend the by-laws to clarify that a student who attends a Virtual Education School may have immediate eligibility to participate in the athletic program at the public school serving the student’s residence “only if such freshman actually started high school at the Virtual Education School.”

IN Referenda . . .

● Virginia B. Calvin, a former superintendent of the South Bend Community School Corporation, and a member of the Indiana Charter School Board, writes a letter to the editor published in the *South Bend Tribune* advocating for passage of the South Bend Community School Corporation’s referendum.

IN Facilities & Construction . . .

● Taylor Community School Corporation is ahead of schedule on construction of a new fieldhouse that will feature three full-sized basketball courts, a three-lane track, and area for batting practice. The *Kokomo Tribune* reports the building is on track for completion at the end of July or early August.

● Paoli Community School Corporation in Orange County accepts the \$4.3 million low bid from AML Construction for improvements to Throop Elementary School and Paoli Junior/Senior High School. Kremp Construction had submitted a bid of just under \$5 million. The improvements should be substantially completed by the end of 2020.

● Hamilton Southeastern Schools closed May 6 on a \$14 million General Obligation Bond issue to finance renovations and improvements to Fall Creek Junior High School and Hamilton Southeastern High School. The financial advisor is Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, and JP Morgan Securities is the underwriter.

● Liberty-Perry Community School Corporation closed May 6 on a \$3.5M bond issue for renovations to Wapahani High School. Stifel, Nicolaus & Company is the underwriter, and Ice Miller LLP is bond counsel.

● Clark-Pleasant Community School Corporation closed May 7 on a \$35 million bond issue for the construction of a new elementary school and to pay back \$14 million in outstanding bond anticipation notes. Bond counsel is Ice Miller LLP, Baker Tilly is the financial advisor, and Fifth Third Securities is the underwriter.

● Marion Community School Corporation closed May 19 on two separate bond issues worth just under a combined \$9 million to retrofit existing lighting fixtures with LED bulbs, replace boilers and chillers, renovate Allen Elementary School, upgrade HVAC systems at multiple buildings, and repair plumbing at Justice Intermediate School. All projects should be finished by the end of 2020. Bond counsel is Barnes & Thornburg LLP, and the underwriter is Fifth Third Securities.

● The Greater Martinsville School Building Corporation issued \$6.1 million in bonds this month for construction of a student activity center at Martinsville High School and other improvements. Bond counsel is Jane Herndon of Ice Miller LLP, the underwriter is Raymond James & Associates, and the municipal advisor is Stifel, Nicolaus & Company.

● The West Lafayette School Building Corporation sets a May 28 closing date on a \$7.5 million bond issue for construction of an educational wing and performing arts center at West Lafayette Jr./Sr. High School. Bond counsel is Ice Miller LLP, Baker Tilly is the municipal advisor, and the underwriter is FHN Financial Capital Markets.

● The Heartland Career Center receives approval from the State Board of Education for a one million dollar Common School Fund loan that will be put toward construction of a 35,000 square-foot building. The loan will pay for approximately 20% of the project, with the other 80% covered by an EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant.

● Hayman Construction has been selected to build the White River Career and Technical Education automotive facility.

● Southwest Dubois County School Corporation approves plans for secured entrances at Holland and Huntingburg elementary schools. Bids were due May 21.

● Th North Judson-San Pierre School Corporation will have to scale back plans for a two-bay bus garage after bids came in over budget.

● Elkhart Community Schools awards bids totaling \$7.97M to Gibson-Lewis, LLC, for the Elkhart High School Phase II project and construction at the Elkhart Area Career Center.



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IN Transition . . .

- **Laura Blessing**, superintendent of Northeastern Wayne Schools in Fountain City for the past seven years, leaves to become superintendent of the Miamisburg City Schools in Ohio.
- **Jeff Gibboney**, superintendent of the Bloomfield School District, has been selected as the next superintendent of the Greencastle Community School Corporation.
- **Michael Springer** will assume the superintendency of the Northern Wells Community Schools. He stepped down as superintendent of the North West Hendricks School Corporation in October 2019. Springer has 27 years of experience in public education and currently works for CORE Construction.
- **Tammy Chavis** has been promoted from assistant superintendent to superintendent of the Franklin County Community School Corporation. She'll be paid \$123,000.
- **Batesville Community School Corporation** appoints **Lynn Gosser** as special education director. She is the former president of the Indiana Council of Administrators of Special Education (ICASE).
- **Audra Peterson**, director of the AK Smith Career Center, leaves to become director of career and technical education for Porter County Education Services.
- **Nathan McKeand**, principal of Laville Jr./Sr. High School, leaves to become principal of Triton Jr./Sr. High School.
- **Glenn Barnes** has been promoted from assistant principal to principal of Knox High School.
- **Oak Hill United School Corporation** should announce a new superintendent May 25. The individual will be paid a base annual salary of \$115,000.
- **Fort Wayne Community Schools** should announce a new superintendent May 26. The proposed three-year contract pays a base salary of \$215,000.
- The **Anderson Community School Corporation Board of Trustees** approves a \$164,000 buyout and release for former Superintendent **Tim Smith**. The board placed him on leave in March with 18 months left on his contract.
- **Valparaiso Community Schools** brings back **Michael Berta** as interim superintendent. The former longtime superintendent for the Portage Township Schools served in the interim role for the Valpo schools from 2012 to 2014.
- **John Tindall** has been hired as principal of Southwestern Jr./Sr. High School in Shelbyville.
- **Derik Hutton** is named the new principal of his alma mater, South Ripley Junior High School, effective July 1. Hutton replaces **Destiny Rutzel**, who resigned effective at the end of the current school year to join Vitas Health Care as an educational training manager after six years as principal.

IN Government . . .

- The State Board of Education approves an accountability baseline reset for Needmore Elementary School in the North Lawrence Community Schools. Needmore's grade span is expanding to K-6 and its enrollment is projected to double, as the district makes the painful decision to close five elementary schools and one middle school.
- **East Chicago Central High School** sees its AF accountability grade raised to a B by the State Board of Education after a hearing officer determined that 12 students should not have been included in the calculation due to their enrollment and attendance at The Crossing.
- The State Board of Education denied an AF appeal filed by the Gary Community School Corporation for West Side Leadership Academy. In the words of the hearing officer, "Unfortunately, neither statute nor administrative rule provides for students to be excluded from the accountability calculation due to absenteeism/truancy or culture changes," even as the hearing officer acknowledged that the situations are in many cases "beyond the school's control."

IN Courts & Conduct . . .

- The Bopp Law Firm of Terre Haute files suit in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana on behalf of **Jennifer McWilliams**, a former instructional aide at Frankton Elementary School and the founder of the Indiana chapter of Purple for Parents, a group committed to opposing the #RedforEd movement. McWilliams claims she was fired from her elementary school position earlier this year for a Facebook post she made critical of the school's social emotional learning (SEL) program. The complaint alleges that her firing violated her First Amendment rights. *McWilliams v. Frankton-Lapel Comm'ty Schools Bldg. Corp., et al.*, No. 1:20-cv-01419-JPH-TAB.
- As we wrote in these pages back in March, McWilliams posted a Facebook video soon after learning of her termination stating that the principal told her she was being fired because her Purple for Parents Facebook posts were untruthful, offended teachers, and had harmed the reputation of the school district. In the days leading up to her dismissal, McWilliams had written on Facebook that the district's SEL curriculum called "Leader in Me," which is based on a book by the same name written by Stephen Covey, was "very disturbing."
- News of her firing went viral earlier this year within conservative media circles, with some on the fringe convinced that the school district let her go in an attempt to stop Purple for Parents from allegedly exposing the truth about the liberal indoctrination of children, while others construed her firing as emblematic of the hostility they contend the public school system has toward Christian teachers and conservative viewpoints.
- In *State v. Mack*, No. 73D01-2005-F5-000035, **Ryan C. Mack**, who abruptly resigned his posts as boy's basketball coach and assistant athletic director at Shelbyville High School positions in January, has been charged with five Level 6 felony counts of theft and one Felony 6 count of Corrupt Business Influence in Shelby County Superior Court 1.

□ Mack, according to a probable cause affidavit filed by police with the court, admitted to misappropriating almost \$15,000 Golden Bear Booster Club to support a gambling problem – after administrators reportedly allowed him to skate a few years earlier over a missing funds matter if he agreed to pay back the missing money and stay straight.

● **Rhondalyn Cornett** of Indianapolis, a former president of the Indiana Educators Association, a division of the Indiana State Teachers Association which represents all the teachers in the Indianapolis Public Schools, was sentenced to 16 months in federal prison by Judge **Tanya Walton Pratt** of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana. Shortly after attaining the presidency, Cornett began a four-year long scheme of embezzlement from the IEA, and ultimately the teachers themselves, prosecutors proved. The scheme began in 2014, and lasted until her resignation in 2018. She stole more than \$154,000 from the teachers. In pronouncing her sentence, Judge Pratt specifically noted that Cornett's embezzlement involved money that was not only meant to benefit the teachers, but ultimately the students of IPS themselves, an act that she called tragic.

□ This case was jointly investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations – Labor Racketeering and Fraud, Marion County Prosecutor's Office, and the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department.

□ “In the case of Rhondalyn Cornett, the tenets of the law have prevailed and the legal system has followed its course. I pray that Ms. Cornett's faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ will redirect her to become a very productive citizen again in the near future.” said **Ronald Swann**, the current president of the Indianapolis Education Association in a release issued by the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District.

IN Higher Education

IN General . . .

● As Indiana State University phases in operations in concert with the Governor's Back on Track plan, ISU administration is working to figure out how employees in high risk groups and employees who live with others in high risk groups can delay their return to campus. Employees are returning to campus in waves each Monday, but faculty members will continue working remotely. By July 6, most employees will have returned to on-campus work, and faculty can return on an as-needed basis. Most campus buildings will be open by July 6.

● If the federal formula for distributing CARES Act relief used headcount instead of FTE, Ivy Tech Community College would have seen its share of the relief increase from \$32M to more than \$60 million, according to American Progress.

● Lincoln Technical Institute has reopened its Indianapolis campus and resumed on-site instruction on a limited basis for students nearing graduation who need to complete hands-on skills training. Lincoln Tech says it has 535 students currently enrolled in Indianapolis.

● Oakland City University plans to return to regular campus operations June 1.

● When Fall semester classes begin on August 24, Ivy Tech Community College students will have the option to attend courses on campus and online, announces President **Sue Ellspermann**. Students will be able to choose even on a week-to-week basis whether to attend class virtually or in-person, adds Provost **Kara Monroe**. To support student choice, Ivy Tech is investigating placing Logitech cameras in each room. That way, students who prefer to participate remotely can still tune in to the instructor.

● Ivy Tech Community College is ordering 50,000 face masks for staff and students.

● The University of Notre Dame plans to welcome students back to campus for the Fall semester on August 10 (two weeks earlier than originally scheduled), forge through without a Fall break, and conclude the semester before Thanksgiving. Notre Dame plans to institute “comprehensive testing” for Covid-19, contact tracing, quarantine and isolation protocols, social distancing and mask requirements, and enhanced cleaning of all campus spaces. “Some institutions are electing to reduce the number of students on campus by inviting back only a portion of the student body at any time,” writes President **John Jenkins**, who was interviewed live about plans by at mid-week by Goshen native **Kate Bolduan** on CNN. “We have resisted that course because we believe in the educational value of the on-campus experience for all our students, and we recognize it is particularly valuable for students whose living situations away from campus may not be as conducive to study. We intend to bring all our students back to campus for the semester, though we may stage their return to allow for testing and orientation.” Physical access to labs and studios will be limited to 25% of the normal density when they begin to reopen the week of May 26. The reopening of all buildings with research labs and creative arts studios should be completed by mid-June.

● Holy Cross College will follow the lead of the University of Notre Dame and welcome its students back to campus August 10, two weeks earlier than originally scheduled August 24 start date. To minimize the risk that “students leave campus for breaks, are exposed to infection, and return possibly spreading the contagion to others,” students will forgo a Fall break in October, and the semester will conclude before Thanksgiving.

● Franklin College President **Kerry Prather** records a video message sharing the goal of returning to in-person instruction on campus for all students this Fall. An on-demand Covid-19 testing protocol has been established with Johnson Memorial Hospital. Classes are scheduled to resume August 31.

● In *Mellowitz v. Ball State Univ.*, No. 49D14-2005-PL-01 5026, a student files a proposed class-action complaint in Marion County Superior Court seeking recovery of tuition and fees for “services that have not been provided” as result of Ball State University sending students home, closing campus facilities, and canceling in-person classes in response to Covid-19. Fees for which the complaint seeks a refund include student services fees, technology fees, student health fees, and student transportation fees.

● In *Spiegel v. Trustees of Indiana Univ.*, No. 53C06-2005-CT-000771, filed in Monroe County Circuit Court, a student brings a proposed class-action lawsuit against Indiana University seeking tuition reimbursement for “services not received” when the residential campus closed amid the coronavirus pandemic. The breach of contract suit alleges that online instruction is “not commensurate with the same classes being taught in person.”

● In *Seslar v. Trustees of Purdue Univ.*, No. 79-C01-2005-PL-59, Purdue University faces a second proposed student class-action lawsuit in Tippecanoe County Circuit Court seeking refunds of tuition and fees for the period after in-person instruction was shut down earlier this year at Elijah Seslar’s Purdue Fort Wayne campus. Seslar is represented by the same attorneys who filed the *Spiegel* purported class action lawsuit against Indiana University, and the charges made in the Purdue lawsuit resemble those breach of contract and unjust enrichment claims levied against IU. Unlike the April 9 lawsuit that we were first to tell you about, this latest action was filed in state court.

● Bethel University plans to resume residential, face-to-face classes in August. Administrators are “preparing for every imaginable situation” and “working hard to make sure plans are adaptable so they can address a variety of scenarios,” says President Gregg Chenoweth. Bethel will be installing \$100,000 worth of technology in classrooms to live stream instruction for students in quarantine or in cases where an unusually large course section might more prudently be broken into smaller groups. In the case where an extended Fall break or Thanksgiving break would be wise for community health, students were assured that the quality of virtual coursework will be far superior to what they experienced beginning in March.

● University of Southern Indiana will ask its board of trustees to approve a set of recommendations for a mix of in-person and online instruction for the 2020-2021 academic year.

● Ancilla College will announce Fall plans by June 1. “While we have plenty of models and protocols for review, Ancilla’s size and location have emerged as an advantage,” writes President Michele Dvorak. As of early May, the two counties that directly border Ancilla College, Marshall and Starke counties, had only three deaths combined from Covid-19, she notes.

● Butler University will continue to rely on health experts and their advice but for now is “very much committed to, and planning for, a safe return to an on-campus educational and living experience in the fall.”

● IUPUI Chancellor Nasser Paydar convenes task forces in 12 areas to develop recommendations and inform decision-making on the future response to Covid-19. The inclusive process involves colleagues from across IUPUI, IUPUC, and IU Fort Wayne. Look for an announcement around mid-June on how to safely proceed with the Fall semester.

● Goshen College commits to “proceed with caution,” but “our plan is to see you on campus in August.”

□ President Rebecca Stoltzfus writes, “Goshen’s small class sizes and spacious campus are great advantages. And we are fortunate to be just across the street from Goshen Hospital, a highly respected facility with capacity that has not been strained in the recent peak period in COVID-19 cases. Keeping each other healthy will require changes in our behaviors, and voluntary cooperation within our GC community.”

● Marian University will begin a phased reopening of campus on May 18. For at least the next two weeks, face masks are required in shared and public spaces “not only to protect ourselves, but to show respect for our concern for the well-being of others,” writes President Dan Elsener. Social distancing must be maintained on campus at all times, and everyone returning to campus is expected to perform a daily self-check for Covid-19 symptoms. The slow reopening is in effect until May 29. Guidelines for the month of June will be provided sometime in the last week of May.

□ Looking ahead to the fall, “it is currently our plan to welcome students back to campus for face-to-face classes. All faculty and staff should prepare for the fall with that goal in mind. Obviously, none of us know what the future holds in terms of the spread of COVID-19, and we saw in March how rapidly the situation can evolve. Given that, we are preparing for a variety of scenarios and will be prepared if we need to move to an online or hybrid instruction delivery model at any time. Additional planning for the return of students includes the preparation of quarantine rooms for students who are experiencing symptoms and physical modifications to classrooms, large spaces, and shared spaces to allow for social distancing, temperature screening, and COVID-19 testing in appropriate situations. We will also have a contact tracing system to help us identify faculty, staff, and students who may have been exposed to COVID-19 so that we can appropriately test and quarantine individuals who may be at risk of further spreading the virus. We are working through the many issues that we face as we plan for this fall. We are drawing upon the CDC guidance, city and state directives, medical expertise, and the wisdom of other university colleagues across the state and nation. [Marian University’s general counsel and vice president for administration] Deb Lawrence has been tasked with synthesizing and coordinating all of our planning and implementation efforts related to COVID-19.”

● Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology is moving forward under the assumption that “conditions will allow us to welcome first fall sport student-athletes and then all other students that are able to return to campus in August. We recognize that is optimistic and that there is a possibility that we may need to adjust. If mitigating factors outside of our control impact our plans, we intend to determine and communicate that by mid-summer. In the meantime, we will continue to take steps to prepare for the full range of reasonably foreseeable scenarios,” writes President Robert Coons. Basic operations are being restarting this summer, with a goal of having staff who can return to work on campus back by July 6, and faculty back later in August. Rose-Hulman foresees mandatory face coverings, daily temperature monitoring, enforcement of social distancing, and a plan for testing.

- University of Saint Francis plans to return to on-campus, classroom instruction for the Fall semester in August “predicated, of course, on following the guidelines and recommendations of federal, state and local health and government authorities. On-campus, face-to-face instruction might look different than it did prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The world has changed, and higher education is no exception. USF is committed to adjusting to this ‘new normal’ and implementing the most efficient and productive approaches to provide our students with the high-quality education for which the university is known,” writes Sister M. Elise Kriss, USF’s president.

- Indiana Tech will open for in-person classes on August 17, as planned, for the upcoming fall semester. However, the traditional undergraduate calendar has been updated to eliminate Fall break, which was scheduled for October 12 and 13. These two break days will be added to the week of Thanksgiving, making that entire week Thanksgiving break. After Thanksgiving break, traditional undergraduate classes will move entirely online for the final two weeks of the semester, which concludes December 10. “This adjustment has been made with the intent to reduce the number of students returning to main campus after domestic and international travel over Thanksgiving break,” reads the latest communication.

□ Live-streamed and video-recorded classes will be available to allow students with health concerns to attend classes remotely. Indiana Tech also has contingency plans to migrate classes fully online as needed. Classes for the College of Professional Studies program, both in-person and online, begin July 26.

- Manchester University President Dave McFadden writes on his blog, “When I first arrived at Manchester, I said, half seriously, that our tagline should be ‘Manchester: Outstanding in the Cornfields.’ When I shared the idea, it was always good for a laugh, or at least a chuckle. The less-than-hearty laugh response let me know that it was funny, but cut too close to a truth that some found uncomfortable or off-putting. Now, after 25 years, it may be time to print the T-shirts and roll out the billboards. Some families and undergraduate students, perhaps many, will find an exceptional small college in a welcoming rural town appealing. Certainly perceived safety in a time of pandemic is an issue, but so are the close attention and personal support that they find at Manchester.”

- Grace College fully intends to reopen campus this Fall, announces President Bill Katip. “While we have done our best to maintain community by virtual means this spring, we know that face-to-face instruction, dorm room camaraderie, and dining hall conversations are all essential to who we are and what we achieve.”

- Purdue University will resume face-to-face instruction this Fall, albeit with an academic calendar that eliminates Fall breaks and concludes classroom instruction November 24, the last day prior to the Thanksgiving break. “This was done to minimize the mass exit and return of students these breaks created,” reports Provost Jay Akridge. Final exams will take place after Thanksgiving.

□ “Please note that the campus will not close after Thanksgiving break, the residence halls will be open, etc. — we simply will not have face-to-face instruction after Thanksgiving,” says Provost Akridge. The modified calendar will not impact pay or the number of holidays for faculty and staff. The number of administrative employees who come to campus each day will be reduced by one-third or more via telework.

- Purdue University cancels all July events on the West Lafayette campus, with the exception of the Summer Start and Early Start programs, which will begin July 10 as planned. Purdue will use the Summer to work on adapting courses for the Fall.

- Taylor University will welcome students to campus for in-person classes this Fall beginning August 31, as scheduled. “Our staff and faculty will be ready to adjust quickly if we have to transition again to virtual learning,” writes Interim President Paige Comstock Cunningham. “The lived-experience at Taylor is distinctive, and we have expectant hope for the academic year ahead.”

- Goshen College institutes a policy requiring all employees, student-employees, students, contractors, and guests to wear a face mask when on campus. The college will provide all employees and student-employees with face masks. “We understand that face masks/coverings can be uncomfortable and annoying, but we nonetheless encourage every member of our campus community to persevere in wearing them.”

- Saint Mary’s College convened an Academic Continuation Task Force to think through “multiple potential scenarios regarding the Fall semester. It remains our intention to reopen our campus in time for students to return for classes in the fall.”

IN Enrollment . . .

- Summer enrollment at Ivy Tech Community College as of May 1 had plunged by 25% compared to the same point last year . . . and Fall 2020 enrollment as of May 1 was down by a precipitous 38% versus the same point in the prior cycle. During the last recession, Ivy Tech’s enrollment boomed, but the latest enrollment numbers have to be scary.

- On the first day of Summer 2020 classes May 12, Indiana University Bloomington reported a record high enrollment of 12,604 students, a 22 percent increase from Summer 2019. Overall, 33,201 students enrolled in online courses offered through IU campuses across the state, almost six percent more than last summer when 31,443 students were enrolled in both remote learning and in-person classes.

IN Administration . . .

- Purdue University President Mitch Daniels visited live with CNN’s Erin Burnett on her show Tuesday evening, and outlined some of the thinking that went into Purdue’s decision to re-open this Fall – “Maybe not to the same extent as before, not in the same numbers, the same kind of classrooms, very, very different in many ways, but yes, we believe the on-campus, in-person tutelage and mentoring that our faculty can provide, is an indispensable of a real higher education, and Erin, so do our students.” He explains “we would not have made this decision in February or March. We’ve learned a lot since then and two important things we’ve learned is, first of all, there’s almost zero lethal threat to young people from this virus. They are literally,

statistically, provably at greater risk from car wrecks, accidents, cancer, even it appears pneumonia, than this particular virus. The second thing we've learned is that our students overwhelmingly want to be here. Our institution only exists for the benefit of students. Not as an institution per se, and not for the adults working in it. So, our job is to find way to help those students make progress just like the younger people you just talked to chancellor about and we think we can do that by concentrating relentlessly on the protection of the vulnerable, our faculty and staff."

□ President Daniels explains "We changed our calendar and I notice other schools now beginning to do the same. Not so much because of what we expect the flu season to look like, but because we want to minimize coming and going. It's one of literally scores of changes we will make to make our campus particularly for those who are now provably vulnerable to this terrible disease." As for some faculty quoted about their Covid-19 concerns in an in-person campus setting, Daniel says "we have over 2,000 (faculty) and we celebrate diversity of opinion on our campus, so we have every stripe of opinion. I'd just say that that's a very tiny minority view and, frankly, not from the most scientifically credible corner of our very STEM-based campus." he continues, "let's give that person the benefit of the doubt. On the day that statement was made may not have been that plain to her everything we're about to do - changes in physical facilities, de-densifying of campus. A third of our staff will now work permanently off site. Absolutely stipulating minimal distance between her and her classroom and the nearest student. Much more teaching online, and many other changes. She'd probably be teaching from behind a plexiglass screen to a room full of students wearing masks mandatorily. So, let's give the benefit of the doubt. I think that very human fear that one person expressed is one that we sympathize with and we'll - we're doing everything we know how to (do) to address."

□ U.S. Sen. Mike Braun (R) joined MSNBC's *Morning Joe* Tuesday morning to talk about how to reopen colleges in a safe and entrepreneurial way, and he suggested other university administrators take a tip from Purdue University and President Daniels, because "Mitch has kind of reset the bar for all of higher education, in terms of maybe how to think out of the box."

IN Budgets & Finance . . .

- Purdue University went to market for a \$113 million student fee bond sale . . . but had to pull back when yields declined by as much as 13 basis points.
- Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College freezes undergraduate tuition for the 2021-2022 academic year, marking the fourth consecutive year of zero tuition increases.
- To balance the budget for next year, Indiana State University eliminated 51 vacant staff positions.
- Indiana Tech increases tuition for 2020-2021 by 2.0% to \$27,530.
- At Martin University, 272 students are receiving CARES Act grants of approximately \$700 each.
- While only required to distribute the first half of the CARES Act funding to students, Grace College has decided to pass along the entire \$1.5M amount to students.

□ Grace has sent cash payments via direct deposit or check to residential students rather than just crediting student accounts so funds may be used immediately. The amounts of individual grants were based on a pro-rata schedule of the date when a student moved out of the dorms, with the average grant totaling \$1,800. For students who might not be able to return this Fall because of financial hardship, Grace opened a "Bring Them Back" fund "to meet the most critical needs of our students during this time and to ensure they can continue and finish their education at Grace College."

- Ivy Tech Community College is distributing CARES Act funding to students in two ways. One, Ivy Tech allocated \$8.2M to 22,415 students based on their Unmet Need in paying the cost of attendance. Payments ranged from a minimum of \$250 up to \$1,000. In the second distribution, the other \$8.3 million is being divided among each of the 18 campuses. Each campus will allocate funds directly to students who fill out an application requesting aid with pandemic-related expenses such as food insecurity, utility bills, and computers.

IN Programs & Policies . . .

- Purdue University's School of Engineering Education adds an online master's degree in engineering education. The 30-hour program "is a great example of what Purdue sees as a vital function of online education - making professional development and lifelong learning, which are so important today, readily accessible for people with commitments who need versatility in where and when they learn," says Gerry McCartney, executive vice president for Purdue Online.
- Indiana State University proposes a policy that will prohibit employees, including student employees, from wagering on ISU intercollegiate athletic contests, athletic performances, or coaching performances, our sister Hannah News Service newsletter, INDIANA GAMING INSIGHT, reports. Sports wagering policies at Purdue University and Butler University extend to all students, not just student employees. ISU is continuing to discuss whether the prohibition should be expanded beyond just ISU athletic events.
- Ivy Tech Community College is offering 10,000 free courses on a first-come, first-serve basis. Eligible courses cover Industry 4.0, automation, cybersecurity, and cloud computing.
- Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College will provide every new student a technology bundle with an iPad Air, iPencil, three years of Apple Care, One Drive file storage, and Microsoft Office 365 online.
- Ivy Tech Community College students will receive guaranteed admission to IUPUI, contingent on a few minor stipulations. The Guaranteed Admissions Agreement ensures that Ivy Tech graduates can transfer to IUPUI without any credits getting lost along the way.
- The Purdue University Senate voted down a resolution urging the discontinuation of standardized test results as criteria for undergraduate admission.
- Indiana Wesleyan University launches UpSkill Forward, an online training program with lessons starting at as low as \$25. More than 700 interactive competency-based lessons have been combined into programs designed for specific in-demand careers in areas like aerospace, automotive, manufacturing, retail, and logistics.

- Earlham College will offer exercise science as a new academic major in Fall 2020. The coursework is designed to prepare students for careers and graduate studies in exercise physiology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, athletic training, education, coaching, or allied health fields.

- Indiana State University collaborates with Hoosier Energy to develop a 21-credit hour course sequence leading to a Certificate in Emerging Technology for workers displaced by the shutdown of coal-fired power plants. Hoosier Energy is paying for student tuition, including textbooks.

IN Fundraising & Gifts . . .

- Jatinder-Bir “Jay” Sandhu, chair of the Butler University Board of Trustees, joins with his wife to donate \$250,000 to the university to establish the Chain S. Sandhu Scholarship fund in his father’s name.

IN Facilities & Construction . . .

- Ivy Tech Community College accepts bids through June 2 for renovations to the surgical labs on the Fort Wayne Coliseum campus. Bids are due June 16 for a project at the Fort Wayne North campus to combine four existing industrial technology labs into a single space.

- Vincennes University awards a contract of more than \$570,000 to Skanska of Evansville for the construction of a new substation, part of an ongoing VU effort involving electrical upgrades of campus buildings.

- Indiana State University engages Browning Day Mullins Dierdorf for architectural and engineering services for renovations to Dreiser Hall. Bids will be opened in late June, and the selected contractor will start the project immediately thereafter. The \$18.4 million project will be financed with Student Fee Bonds expected to close in July. Piper Sandler is the underwriter, and Ice Miller LLP is bond counsel.

IN Government . . .

- The Indiana State Board of Education at its May business meeting approved nine educator preparation programs to be offered by six institutions of higher education:

- IUPUI - Superintendent
- Indiana Wesleyan University - Early Childhood Education Transition to Teaching
- Marian University - Superintendent
- Oakland City University - School Counselor
- Taylor University - Computer Science and Mathematics, Exceptional Needs: Intense Intervention Initial Licensure, and Exceptional Needs: Intense Intervention Licensure Addition
- University of Southern Indiana - Post-baccalaureate Licensure Addition in Exceptional Needs: Mild Intervention and Post-baccalaureate Initial Licensure Program for Secondary and Preschool-12

- The Indiana Commission for Higher Education is reporting a continued decline in college enrollment throughout the state. The Commission’s newly-released *2020 College Readiness Report* shows 61% of Indiana’s high school graduates in 2018 enrolled in postsecondary education, down from 63% in 2017.

IN Transition . . .

- The Indiana State University Board of Trustees postpones the evaluation of President **Deborah Curtis** for one year due to the pandemic, and extends her contract by one year through June 30, 2022.

- Anderson Campus Chancellor **James Willey** retires June 6 from Ivy Tech Community College. His career also includes serving as superintendent of the Alexandria Community School Corporation, principal of Wabash Middle School, and police officer for Gas City.

- **Steve Campbell** has been elected by alumni to a four-year term on the Wabash College Board of Trustees. He is vice president of communications for the Indianapolis Colts, a former deputy mayor of the City of Indianapolis, and an O’Bannon Administration gubernatorial staffer.

- **Gwyn Richards**, dean of the prestigious Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University since 2011, is stepping down to return to the faculty. **Jeremy Allen**, a tenured associate professor of music in jazz studies, has been appointed interim dean.

- Goshen College names **Dr. Jason Martin** as the executive director of Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College. He brings more than 10 years of programmatic leadership across environmental services and environmental education programs. For the past four years Dr. Martin has served as senior project manager and ecologist for Kleenco Maintenance and Construction in Alexandria (Madison County).

- Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology hires **Santhana Naidu** as vice president for communications and marketing. He has served the past seven years as associate vice president and chief marketing officer at Indiana State University.

- **Matthew Sherman** is selected as Semler Chair for Applied Ethics at Marian University’s Walker Center for Applied Ethics. Sherman currently serves as associate professor and chair of the Department of Theology and Philosophy at Marian.

- The Ball State University Foundation is looking for a new president. The individual hired in May 2019 lasted less than one year.

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