

# COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS FORUM

June 13, 2012 Indianapolis, Indiana

## KnowHow2GO THROUGH AFTERSCHOOL

**S**ixty percent by 2025! Lumina Foundation, based in Indiana, has set a lofty national goal: By 2025, 60 percent of Americans will have a high quality post-secondary degree or certificate. That's a big goal. Big because right now only 38% of Americans hold 2-year, 4-year degrees or certificates. That number is 33% for Indiana.

We have a ways to go, but Indiana is fortunate to have many organizations working diligently to help reach the 2025 goal. It cannot be done during K-12 classroom hours alone. To ramp up the work, several organizations came together to host the College & Career Readiness Forum: KnowHow2Go Through Afterschool on June 13, 2012. Forum hosts included: Indiana Afterschool Network, Indiana Commission for Higher Education/Learn More Indiana, and Conner Prairie Interactive History Park. Although each organization is different, they came together because each has a vested interest in helping students become college and career ready.

**The purpose of the forum was to highlight the role of afterschool and summer programs in preparing youth of all ages for college and careers. Indiana was selected as one of four lead states to host the event as part of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation's Expanded Learning and Afterschool Project. The project connects people with research, resources and best practices for expanding learning in communities nationwide.**



Conner Prairie was eager to host the forum. It is a living history museum where youth and families explore and discover what it was like to live and play in Indiana's past. Conner Prairie plays a unique role in Indiana to get kids excited and inspired about learning and see how their past connects to their future.

Learn More Indiana, the state's one-stop resource for college and career planning and preparation, is making higher education possible for more Hoosiers. With a comprehensive website, annual campaigns and a robust mentoring program, Learn More Indiana helps students of all ages plan, prepare and pay for college completion and career success. Learn More kicked off its "KnowHow2Go" college and career readiness and success campaign at this event.



Sponsors who made the Forum possible: Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and the Expanded Learning and Afterschool Project, Lumina Foundation, Chase, the Indiana Department of Education and WFYI and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's American Graduate Initiative. American Graduate is a public media initiative to help students stay on the path to on-time high school graduation and future success.

It was an enlightening event designed to inform and inspire leaders to work together to help many more Hoosier students smoothly transition into post-secondary education. The diverse audience included leaders from higher education, K-12 education, youth and community organizations, businesses, state agencies, among others.

## The Forum asked and addressed two significant questions:

**1** What do Indiana students need for success and what resources are available?

**2** How can education, business, and afterschool programs work together to help deliver results?



## DeMANI ARNOLD

**T**all, handsome, wearing new high-style athletic shoes as white as his bright smile, 18-year old DeMani Arnold took the podium and stood before the crowd as the proud success story everyone hopes to duplicate. "I was a troublemaker. I did not see a future for myself...We kind of look at college and say it's not worth it." That was middle school. Flash forward six years. The first generation college student is headed to Ball State University with a full-ride scholarship. Arnold, however, does not take all the credit for his success at a rigorous Catholic high school. "This is not on me. This is on Starfish," the young man beamed.

Starfish Initiative is an afterschool mentoring program focused on college readiness. Students have committed mentors throughout high school who stay actively involved through the first year of their students' college experience. Its statistics are impressive. In five years, it has seen 100 percent of its 500 high achieving, low income students graduate from high school. It reports that 97 percent went on to four-year colleges. **Starfish helped Arnold get off the street and into a summer internship at the Indiana Repertory Theatre.** Now, Arnold is enthusiastic about a career in theatre. "I want to become somebody who is successful!"

**"I WAS A TROUBLEMAKER. I DID NOT SEE A FUTURE FOR MYSELF... [SIX YEARS LATER] I WANT TO BECOME SOMEBODY WHO IS SUCCESSFUL!"**



# REACHING HIGHER: COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS IN INDIANA



Forum organizers scored a dream team to discuss its two pressing questions.

Pictured from left to right: Bill Stanczykiewicz, President and CEO, Indiana Youth Institute; Teresa Lubbers, State Commissioner, Indiana Commission for Higher Education; David Dresslar (Moderator) Executive Director, University of Indianapolis/CELL; Claudia Cummings, Vice President, Workforce and Education, Conexus Indiana; and Tony Bennett, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Indiana

**Jeanna Keller, Lumina Foundation**, kicked off the panel. **Her message: every afterschool program across the nation must promote college readiness.** If Americans are to stay competitive, keep jobs and grow jobs, higher education is essential for everyone. Jeanna's Lumina video showed that today's jobs are demanding increasingly greater skills. In fact, by 2018, it's estimated that 63% of all jobs in the U.S. will require some type of post-secondary education. To stay competitive, Indiana will need 632,875 additional degrees or certificates to meet its workforce needs by 2025.

The panelists openly supported and agreed with Lumina.

**Indiana Youth Institute's Bill Stanczykiewicz** said it's stunning how many students, especially potential first generation college students, have no idea that they qualify

for scholarships to pay for college expenses like application fees, tuition, books, room and board. Many don't believe college is within their reach. Stanczykiewicz called it the "information and motivation gap." How is the gap closed? The youth expert said low income students receive their information from "people they know and organizations they trust." He emphasized that students need "a continuous supply of individual attention" to guide them toward their futures. **Stanczykiewicz challenged everyone in the room to become knowledgeable about college and career resources and to be the individuals and organizations students trust to go for answers.**

**Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education, Teresa Lubbers**, agreed with Stanczykiewicz that we need to help students understand at a

very early age that education is the key to a great quality of life. If we look at any metric that matters – breaking the cycle of poverty, employment, amount of money earned in a lifetime, civic participation – the level of education is a game-changer, stated Lubbers. Lubbers talked about the Commission's role in helping students understand how to be academically and financially prepared for higher education, including credentials, 2-year and 4-year degrees. Lubbers emphasized that we can't continue to have 70% of young people entering community college needing remediation. **She stated that the Commission is committed to partnering with organizations statewide and doing whatever it takes to take Indiana from 40th in the nation in educational attainment to being a top producing state.**

**State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Bennett**, supported Lubber's views and shared his perspective as the leader of the Indiana Department of Education. He stated that Indiana is changing the way it evaluates school success. School performance measures now include preparing students for careers and technical education, as well as college. Schools receive credit for the number of students receiving national, state and industry-based certifications, in addition to advanced placement and dual college credits. **Bennett emphasized that we need to end the social promotion of students who can't read or do math, and make sure our students graduate college and career-ready. Indiana invests a larger percentage of its state budget (55.6%) in K-12 education than**

**any other state, and we need to maximize this opportunity, Bennett stated.**

**Conexus Indiana Vice President, Claudia Cummings**, representing Indiana's advanced manufacturing and logistics industry, stunned the audience with two key facts. Indiana is a "manufacturing powerhouse", and is ranked first in the nation. At the same time, Indiana ranks 29th in human capital, leaving more than 11,000 jobs unfilled annually due to a lack of skilled workers. Cummings emphasized that this is "not your grandfather's manufacturing" and that jobs in the industry require technical skills and pay 40% higher than average. **Conexus has been working with industry partners to identify the skill needs for its workforce, and with the Indiana Department of**

**Education to develop curricula for classroom instruction.**

Conexus's pathways project in schools throughout Indiana starts this fall, and includes project-based learning curricula, teacher training, matching schools with industry partners, and offering students opportunities for dual credit and credentials.

**Debbie Zipes, Indiana Afterschool Network**, stated that the world is changing so quickly that **we need to prepare kids for jobs that don't yet exist, for a reality we can't perceive yet, and technology that has yet to be discovered. No one institution can do this alone. It will take all of us working together, using our talent, resources, and expertise to make this happen.**

## BEST IN CLASS INDIANA COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS PROGRAMS



Participants had an opportunity to learn from four of the leading college and career readiness after-school programs in the state. They rotated through four breakout sessions. The featured programs included:

- ▶ College Mentors for Kids
- ▶ Starfish Initiative
- ▶ Center for Leadership Development
- ▶ IndianaFIRST Robotics



# KEYNOTE: MAKING SUMMER COUNT FOR INDIANA YOUTH



**E**arl Martin Phalen, a man Time magazine recently said “has become one of the country’s leading education reformers”, started his keynote address by telling of a child

abandoned by his parents at birth, put into the foster system, adopted by two loving parents who made education priority-one, and who eventually graduated from Yale and Harvard Law School. That youngster was Earl Martin Phalen. Phalen could have practiced law or business, but instead focused his talent on providing low income youth with new opportunities for learning, and growth and achievement.

**Phalen founded Summer Advantage USA – brought to Indiana by The Mind Trust – to harness the power of summer learning to raise the**

**educational achievement of low income students.** Every summer his program provides thousands of elementary and middle school students with research based learning programs that help them achieve mastery in core subjects, stimulate their dreams and aspirations for the future, and help them develop as scholars, citizens, and leaders. **Several years of data show that his five-week summer academic and enrichment program turns around summer learning loss, and students gain an average of two-three months’ of math, reading and writing skills, instead of falling behind.**

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## IN CLOSING

People in attendance enthusiastically endorsed the event and some of their views were captured by WFYI. For video clips, go to [www.indianaafterschool.org](http://www.indianaafterschool.org)

For additional information, visit these sites:

American Graduate Initiative: [www.americangraduate.org](http://www.americangraduate.org)

Center for Leadership Development: [www.cldinc.org](http://www.cldinc.org)

College Mentors for Kids: [www.collegementors.org](http://www.collegementors.org)

Conner Prairie: [www.connerprairie.org](http://www.connerprairie.org)

Expanded Learning and Afterschool Project: [www.expandinglearning.org](http://www.expandinglearning.org)

Indiana Afterschool Network: [www.indianaafterschool.org](http://www.indianaafterschool.org)

Indiana Department of Education: [www.doe.in.gov](http://www.doe.in.gov)

Indiana Youth Institute: [www.iyi.org](http://www.iyi.org)

Indiana Youth Institute Trip to College: [www.triptocollege.org](http://www.triptocollege.org)

Indiana FIRST Robotics: [www.indianafirst.org](http://www.indianafirst.org)

KnowHow2Go: [www.KnowHow2GOIndiana.org](http://www.KnowHow2GOIndiana.org)

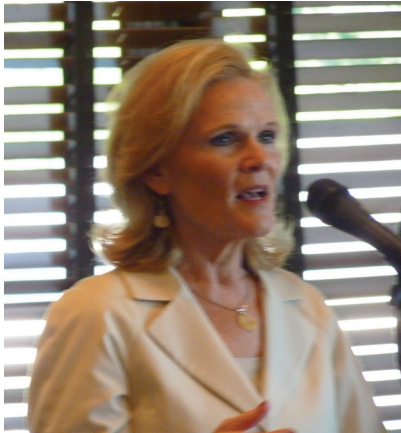
Learn More Indiana: [www.LEARNMOREINDIANA.ORG](http://www.LEARNMOREINDIANA.ORG)

Starfish Initiative: [www.starfishinitiative.org](http://www.starfishinitiative.org)

Summer Advantage USA: [www.summeradvantage.org](http://www.summeradvantage.org)

WFYI: [www.wfyi.org](http://www.wfyi.org)

# MORE PICTURES OF THE EVENT:



Teresa Lubbers,  
State Commissioner,  
Indiana Commission  
for Higher Education



Keynote speaker: Earl  
Martin Phalen



Claudia  
Cummings,  
Vice President,  
Workforce and  
Education,  
Conexus Indiana



Bill Stanczykiewicz,  
President and CEO, Indiana  
Youth Institute



Tony Bennett, State  
Superintendent of Public  
Instruction, Indiana



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Indiana Afterschool  
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