

INITIATIVE TO BOOST COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READINESS IN HIGH SCHOOLS ENDS ITS THIRD YEAR WITH BIG BENEFITS FOR INDIANA STUDENTS, TEACHERS

October 5, 2015—An initiative to boost college and career readiness among Indiana’s public high school students in STEM-related subjects has yielded a third year of success stories—big jumps in enrollment in Advanced Placement (AP)® courses and in the percentages of students who have earned college credits through AP tests.

The number of tests that reached or exceeded the credit-qualifying level on select AP tests in science, math, and English have increased by 87% over the three years that nine high schools around the state have implemented the innovative program.

“These strong gains are good news for Indiana schools, teachers, and students, especially as we help close the STEM achievement gap among minority and women students,” said Karen Morris, director of the Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program for Indiana (AP-TIP IN). “More of our next generation is getting ready for the successful careers this state’s economy comprises now and into the future.”

The program, administered by the University of Notre Dame’s Institute for Educational Initiatives, uses a nationally recognized model of intensive training and financial incentives to attune students and teachers to the growing importance of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) capabilities. The program was developed by the nonprofit National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) to meet our economy’s growing need for STEM talent and to date has been implemented in more than 750 high schools nationwide.

Indiana public high schools participating in AP-TIP IN benefit when educators commit to this unique professional development process for College Board AP-level teaching. Both the participating teachers and their students receive cash awards when they complete their courses with a credit-qualifying AP test score.

With the results from the AP tests of the 2014-2015 school year now tabulated, the AP-TIP IN program celebrates continuing growth in AP course enrollments and successful exam outcomes. Representatives from the statewide initiative will meet Oct. 6 to salute a 2015 School of the Year and 2015 Teachers of the Year for

science, math, and English. The event is hosted by Kokomo High School. Journalists are invited, along with students, teachers, principals, parents, and program leaders from around Indiana.

See the accompanying list of 2015 finalists among candidates for AP-TIP IN School of the Year and Teachers of the Year, which is based on the achievement of rigorous goals for increased course enrollments and achievement of qualifying test scores.

Much of the good news about improved career readiness emerges from AP-related gains at each of the 30 participating public schools (see accompanying list) and among demographic groups whose preparation for college-level training in STEM-related subjects has lagged. Local journalists will want to see for themselves the transformations among students and teachers, which in turn can benefit an entire school.

Graphs reflecting some of the success stories are posted online, showing impressive gains statewide and locally. Levels of improvement among schools differ partly because different schools have participated in the AP-TIP IN program for one, two, or three years.

Federal funding distributed among several states by NMSI to replicate the proven program is scheduled to cease after five years. Schools seeing sharp improvements during their participation period will want to obtain alternative sources of funding. New benefactors among corporations and grant-makers are needed to keep the model intact because the costs of implementation are substantial.

The payoffs from this investment in our children and our economy emerge in a range of statistics, both statewide and school-specific.

Among the 11 schools that have participated in the two school years from 2013 to 2015, student enrollments in the targeted AP courses rose by 68%, and the number of qualifying scores of 3, 4, or 5 in the AP exams also rose by 68%.

At Pike High School in Indianapolis, qualifying scores earned by minority students in the three years of the program increased by **580%**, while in the same time period, minority enrollment in AP math, science and English courses increased **76%**.

Among female students participating in the program's math and science courses across all 30 schools, enrollment in AP math and science courses increased by **55%** since the program's inception. What's more, the number of qualifying scores earned by female students jumped **93%**.

Stories like this from participating schools across the state will be available through the Institute for Educational Initiatives and/or your local AP-TIP IN high school. See the list of schools that participated in 2014-2015 on the following page. This list includes schools that started pursuit of their goals in 2012, 2013, or 2014.

For a live overview, including the announcements of awards honoring the strongest gains toward schools' college- and career-readiness goals, attend the Oct. 6, 2015, celebration event at the Kokomo High School Performing Arts Center (more details in our media alert document). If you can't attend, the school is providing streaming video of the event, which begins at 10 am, to be found at www.Kokomoschools.com/AP~TIP_IN.

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Find out more: [National Math and Science Initiative](#) / [College Board Advanced Placement® Program](#)

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Students and teachers in the following 30 public high schools leaped ahead together for college- and career-readiness during the 2014-2015 school year, with the Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program for Indiana (AP-TIP IN):

- *Arsenal Tech High School*
- *Ben Davis High School*
- *Broad Ripple High School*
- *Clark High School*
- *Concord High School*
- *Crawford County High School*
- *Crispus Attucks Medical Magnet School*
- *Eastern Green High School*
- *Edgewood High School*
- *Elkhart Central High School*
- *Elkhart Memorial High School*
- *Gavit High School*
- *Hammond High School*
- *Jeffersonville High School*
- *Kokomo High School*
- *Lake Central High School*
- *Lawrence Central High School*
- *Lawrence North High School*
- *Lebanon High School*
- *Mississinewa High School*
- *Morton High School*
- *New Prairie High School*
- *Perry Meridian High School*
- *Pike High School*
- *Richmond High School*
- *Southport High School*
- *Speedway High School*
- *Westfield High School*
- *Whiteland High School*
- *Whitko High School*

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