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MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

South Dakota Highlights 2020-2021

South Dakota's Engagement

1. **14-Year Partnership.** South Dakota enacted authorizing legislation in 2008 to join the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), which was created in 1991.
2. **About MHEC.** MHEC brings together higher education leaders from South Dakota and 11 other Midwestern states to develop and support best practices, collaborative efforts, and cost-saving opportunities. Through these efforts, it works to ensure strong, equitable postsecondary educational opportunities and outcomes for all.
3. **South Dakota Leadership.** Commissioners, commissioner alternates, and members of advisory program committees provide direction for MHEC programs and services.

How the Compact Benefits South Dakota

1. **$182,000 in Savings.** In 2021, South Dakota colleges, universities, school districts, and state and local governments realized more than $182,000 in cost savings through MHEC's contracts and programs, an increase over last year.
2. **Dollar-for-Dollar Positive Return on South Dakota's Investment.** The State of South Dakota received a positive return on its annual compact membership commitment of $115,000.
   » **Technology Contracts.** South Dakota institutions saved more than $182,000 by purchasing $1.84M in technology hardware, software, and services through MHEC-negotiated contracts.
3. **Credential Transparency.** South Dakota is participating in MHEC's initiative to map its state's credential data to a national registry that makes information on credentials leading to careers more transparent, accessible, and consistent. The South Dakota Board of Technical Education (SDBTE) has mapped all credential information in their jurisdiction to the registry, and they have established a process for other institutions to upload their data more easily.
4. **Open Educational Resources.** South Dakota entered a statewide membership in the Open Education Network (OEN), sponsored by MHEC, to support OER efforts across the state.
5. **South Dakota Research.** MHEC conducted the following research on behalf of requested parties:
   » **Higher Education Governance Structures in the Midwest.** In May 2021, in response to an inquiry by SDBOR, MHEC provided specific comparisons of South Dakota's governance structure, including operating budget, staff size, and board member composition.
   » **State Need-Based Aid per Pell Grant Recipient in the Midwest.** In January 2021, in response to a request from a SD legislator, MHEC calculated the average amount of state need-based aid per Pell Grant recipient for South Dakota, the MHEC region, and the U.S.
   » **Performance on Key Metrics for South Dakota's Technical Colleges and Peer Institutions.** In November 2020, in response to an inquiry from the South Dakota Board of Technical Education, MHEC provided an analysis of four performance indicators for South Dakota's technical colleges and their peer institutions.

Commissioners

Michael Cartney
President
Lake Area Technical
Institute

Erin Healy
State Representative
SD Legislature

V.J. Smith
State Senator
SD Legislature

Larry Tidemann
Governors' Designee &
State Representative
SD Legislature

Janelle Toman
Dir. of Communications,
SD Board of Regents

Reynold Nesiba
State Senator
SD Legislature
(Alternate)

Marli Wiese
State Representative
SD Legislature
(Alternate)

Midwestern Higher Education Compact Priorities

INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY, & EFFECTIVENESS
The Compact serves as an incubator, providing a platform to discuss opportunities and pilot potential solutions.

1. **Innovative Best Practices.** MHEC shares effective solutions to challenges identified by policymakers and higher education leaders. In 2021, discussion topics included rebounding from the pandemic, federal relief, and campus mental health.
2. **Open Educational Resources.** MHEC coordinates efforts to expand access to openly licensed textbooks and learning materials accessible via the Internet at little or no cost to students.
3. **Credential Transparency.** MHEC is bringing states together to create an online, standardized clearinghouse of credentials linked to career pathways to better serve students, educators, and employers.
4. **Timely Research & Policy.** Member states direct and receive high-priority access to research on pressing topics such as college readiness, affordability and finance, and student success.
5. **Interactive Dashboard.** MHEC's online tool provides state-by-state data on key performance indicators including preparation, participation, affordability, completion, finance, and workforce.

DEVELOPING COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS TO REGIONAL PROBLEMS
MHEC takes on projects and issues that are too cumbersome or expensive for one state to do alone, working jointly to make the Midwest region stronger and more competitive.

1. **Convenings.** MHEC convenes diverse leaders to discuss and identify critical issues in higher education. MHEC also brings together campus experts including CIOs, risk managers, and campus health leaders to address shared challenges and opportunities.
2. **State Visits.** MHEC leaders visit each state annually during its legislative session to learn more about and address key issues affecting the state's economy and higher education.
3. **Military Credit.** MHEC serves veterans in the region by leading efforts to translate competencies acquired through military service into meaningful credit toward a college degree, certificate, or license.
4. **Tuition Reciprocity.** MHEC provides a Midwest tuition reciprocity program whereby public institutions agree to charge students in participating states no more than 150 percent of their in-state resident tuition and private institutions offer a 10 percent reduction in their tuition rates. This program saves families money and keeps students in the Midwest.
5. **Distance Education.** MHEC manages a regional approach to authorizing Midwestern states and institutions to regulate, approve, and oversee the delivery of interstate online education. This approach, part of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA), provides a streamlined process that results in cost savings for postsecondary institutions and improved access to online education for students.

DRIVING COST SAVINGS & BUSINESS SOLUTIONS
MHEC programs and contracts result in tremendous cost savings for institutions, states, and students. The Compact solves key business problems and protects investment in higher education by collaborating and reducing risk.

1. **Competitive Sourcing.** MHEC leads extensive competitive bidding and RFP processes that save members time and money while making it easier to purchase insurance, technology, and other goods and services. Institutions can tailor these negotiated contracts to their needs.
2. **Technology Contracts.** MHEC leverages the combined hardware, software, and services volume of campuses and local governments in member states to reach favorable agreements with technology vendors. In FY21 member states saved an estimated $34.19M through technology purchasing contracts.
3. **Cyber Insurance.** MHEC offers institutions cyber security insurance and assesses vulnerabilities in security controls, threats, and financial exposure.
4. **Property Insurance.** MHEC offers comprehensive property coverage that can be tailored to the needs of specific college campuses. Its Master Property Program reduces campus insurance costs while improving asset protection. In FY21, the program saved member states $4.32M.
5. **Student Health Solutions.** MHEC offers institutions options for fully insured, school-sponsored health plans. MHEC's responsive approach resulted in the recent addition of virtual mental health services for students.