

Contact: Sandy Hillman FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

317-788-4923 | hillmans@uindy.edu

Hobart University High School, School City of Hobart

Hobart, Indiana

PRESS RELEASE

Hobart University High School Earns Early College Endorsement for the Second Time

The Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL) at the University of Indianapolis recently announced the re-endorsement of the Early College (EC) program at Hobart University High School for the second time. The Early College at Hobart is designated as highly effective in implementing with fidelity the Eight Core Principles of Early College. Hobart University's Early College program began in 1999 with the creation of the CISCO Academy and the offering of Project Lead The Way courses. Hobart University High School received its first endorsement from CELL in 2020 and continues to grow and excel. In 2022 Hobart University Early College graduated sixty students who earned the Indiana College Core from Ivy Tech Lake County, 30 hours of general education courses that fulfill the freshman year requirements at all public universities and colleges in Indiana. Last year, fifty students earned associate degrees, and since 2018 Hobart University students have earned 28,898 credits saving families over 4.4 million dollars in tuition.

"The School City of Hobart is honored to be endorsed by CELL for the Brickie work being accomplished at Hobart University in our high school, along with our Early College partner Ivy Tech. Our entire district shares this honor as we pave the way at each level of education to make these opportunities a reality for our students. We believe in All My Life I Want to Be a Brickie! Work! Work! Work! We know that we ALL have to Be Excellent on Purpose! We will keep paving the way for Brickie dreams and make them achievable," says Superintendent Dr. Peggy Buffington.

The Early College high school model creates small schools that are designed to give students jumpstarts for the rest of their lives. Students can earn both high school diplomas and up to two years of credit toward bachelor's or associate degrees. While open to all students, Early College programs specifically serve low-income young people, first-generation college students, English language learners, and students of color – all statistically underrepresented in higher education. Early Colleges "blur the lines" between high school and postsecondary programs.

To be considered for endorsement, the school prepared a portfolio that addressed the eight required principles established by CELL including providing a rigorous curriculum, robust student supports, and completion data. In addition, a CELL team visited the school to interview

administration, teachers, students, and parents about the EC and its benefits and challenges before designating the program as endorsed.

"These endorsed Early College High Schools have documented evidence of quality programs that help high school students graduate high school and accelerate into post-secondary education, whether at a four-year institution, a two-year institution or a career/technical program. These students' accomplishments are true game-changers for them and their families," said Sandy Hillman, CELL Director of Early College. "The strong leadership of Superintendent Peggy Buffington, Co-Principal Colleen Newell, Co-Principal Craig Osika, Dr. Tim Krieg, Director of Secondary Curriculum, Danielle Adams, Director of School Counselors, and Brooke Burczyk, Director of Early College and Careers has created and implemented an Early College program that continues to grow and flourish in helping students experience a headstart in their post-secondary education. To be endorsed as a high-performing early college two times is a noteworthy achievement."

CELL, at the University of Indianapolis, is a leading convener, catalyst, and collaborator for dynamic, innovative education change in Indiana. It has trained over 160 high schools across the state in the fundamentals of Early College and endorsed 47 Early Colleges as of March 2023. Once a school receives endorsement, it is expected to further develop its opportunities and will be reviewed for re-endorsement every four years. For more information visit <http://cell.uindy.edu>

For more information on this endorsement, contact Sandy Hillman, Director of Early College hillmans@uindy.edu

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About the Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning

Created in 2001, the Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL) at the University of Indianapolis is focused on all children graduating from high school fully prepared for success in postsecondary education and the 21st century workforce. The Center has generated \$57 million in funding to support its work as the leader for innovative education change in Indiana. CELL provides leadership that is both cutting-edge and action-oriented. Via partnerships with international, national, and local education leaders and organizations, CELL unites districts, schools, communities, universities, and businesses to build a sense of urgency to form innovative collaborations for statewide educational and economic improvement.