

## **UE Students Traveling to Indianapolis to Lobby Legislature**

NEWS RELEASE

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Several students from the **University of Evansville** will get firsthand experience with the Indiana legislature this week, as they travel to Indianapolis to lobby on behalf of private higher education.



A total of 15 UE students will be among 250 students from private colleges and universities across the state visiting the legislature on Tuesday. All of the students will be on hand to show legislators how they are being affected by the weak economy – and to stress the need for continued support of funding from the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana.

The students will leave for Indianapolis in the morning, and will meet with their legislators at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday.

They are available for interviews about their trip today.

“We’re excited for the opportunity to meet face-to-face with the people who make decisions about education and scholarship funding in our state,” said UE Junior Peter Hanscom, who is among those going on the trip. “Obviously, the issue of student financial aid is important to us, and to universities like UE, so we think it’s critical that our legislators understand its importance, as well.

“We hope that, by putting a face – or, more accurately, 250 faces – on this issue, it helps convey to our state government how important this issue is.”

This gathering of students from the independent campuses is being coordinated by Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI), where UE President Stephen Jennings serves as chair of the board of directors.

The students’ day will begin at the Indiana History Center at 450 W. Ohio Street beginning at 11:00 a.m., where the students will be briefed by ICI President Hans Giesecke and Vice President Anthony Maidenberg on current legislative issues involving state-funded need-based student aid.

In the Indiana History Center’s auditorium, several legislators are expected to address the entire group before students go to the State House to meet with their hometown legislators on an individual basis.

“We’re so pleased that the students are going to have the opportunity for face-to-face interaction with their hometown legislators at the State House” says Giesecke. “Our students are going to experience the thrill of serving as advocates for their student financial aid. We are excited for the opportunity to introduce these students to how the legislative process works, how it affects their lives and futures, and how they can play a role in shaping its direction.”

Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI) is a nonprofit corporation that represents the state’s 31 nonprofit, accredited, undergraduate degree-granting institutions of higher education.

ICI member institutions enroll more than 83,000 students (approximately 23 percent of all students statewide) and annually produce 34 percent of all bachelor's degrees in Indiana . Information about ICI is available at [www.icindiana.org](http://www.icindiana.org).

For more information about the UE students' trip to Indianapolis , or to set up interviews with those students, please contact UE Director of News Services Joe Atkinson at (812) 488-2562.