

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

INDIANA, PENNSYLVANIA



RESOLUTION FOR THE EXPLORATION OF THE POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF A SCHOOL OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE AT IUP

WHEREAS, the United States and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania face a growing shortage of primary care physicians, especially in rural areas;

WHEREAS, there are many more qualified applicants to US medical schools than there are available openings;

WHEREAS, medical students who study in rural areas are more likely to practice in rural areas, 57 percent of all doctors of osteopathic medicine practice primary care, and more than 20 percent of doctors of osteopathic medicine practice in rural areas;

WHEREAS, there is no school or college of osteopathic medicine at a public university in Pennsylvania;

WHEREAS, Act 188 states, "The primary mission of the system is the provision of instruction for undergraduate and graduate students to and beyond the master's degree in the liberal arts and sciences and in applied fields. . . .";

WHEREAS, IUP is one of only 93 public universities in the US with a high research activity designation;

WHEREAS, IUP has strong existing science and health programs, with 30 percent of its students enrolled in STEM-H (science, technology, engineering, math, and health sciences) majors;

WHEREAS, IUP has a robust and growing partnership with Indiana Regional Medical Center, a strong, independent rural hospital;

WHEREAS, a school of osteopathic medicine at IUP would provide significant benefits to the economy and health of the communities IUP serves and to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;

WHEREAS, a school of osteopathic medicine at IUP would provide affordable pathways for pre-medical students from across Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, who are likely to stay in Pennsylvania to practice professionally;

WHEREAS, the establishment of a school of osteopathic medicine would require significant start-up investment from funding sources, outside of IUP's normal operating budget, and would require following a long process toward accreditation;

WHEREAS, the IUP Council of Trustees and the State System Board of Governors would have future opportunities during the exploration process to approve or not to approve the possible development of a school of osteopathic medicine at IUP;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the IUP Council of Trustees endorses the exploration of the possible development of a school of osteopathic medicine at IUP.

Approved this 8th day of December, 2022.

Samuel H. Smith, Chair
IUP Council of Trustees