

MARIAN UNIVERSITY®

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 19, 2026

CONTACT: Chris Proffitt, Marian University 317.260.9089-cell/text cproffitt@marian.edu

Amy Hanna, Borshoff

317.695.6331-cell/text amy.hanna@borshoff.biz

New statewide initiative aims to expand healthcare training, research, and access to care across Indiana.

Marian University, Purdue University, healthcare systems, and academic partners launch Crossroads Academic Medical Institute.

INDIANAPOLIS, May 19 — A new statewide collaboration announced today will expand and strengthen Indiana’s healthcare workforce, expand clinical training opportunities, improve access to care statewide, attract talent, and drive innovation in Indiana and beyond.

Marian University, Purdue University, and The Catholic University of America, in collaboration with healthcare systems and academic partners across Indiana, including Community Health Network, Ascension St. Vincent, Parkview Health, Margaret Mary Health, Hancock Health, Daviess Community Hospital, Deaconess Health System, and the Indiana Rural Health Association, have launched the Crossroads Academic Medical Institute. In addition to its Indiana partnerships, The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., will help develop a complementary national model for Catholic academic medicine.

This first-of-its-kind distributed academic medical center coordinates medical education, research, and clinical training through a statewide network across Indiana.

Indiana Governor Mike Braun joined university and healthcare leaders in Indianapolis on Tuesday to announce the initiative and its long-term vision to strengthen healthcare access and workforce development statewide.

Instead of operating from a single hospital campus, the Crossroads Academic Medical Institute connects universities, health systems, and clinical training sites across Indiana to form a coordinated statewide network focused on education, research, and patient care.

“By bringing leading universities and healthcare providers together in the Crossroads Academic Medical Institute, we have created an effective, efficient, and innovative approach to the growing need for outstanding physicians and healthcare professionals of all types across all regions of this great state,” said Daniel J. Elsener, President of Marian University. “This institute and the collaborative power of higher education working with private industry, government, outstanding

clinical professionals, and healthcare providers will advance promising research and exploration of new approaches to ensuring compassionate, quality, and affordable care for all Hoosiers and beyond.”

Through Crossroads Academic Medical Institute, Marian University’s Tom and Julie Wood College of Osteopathic Medicine will serve as the academic anchor for medical education, working alongside Purdue University’s research enterprise and healthcare partners throughout Indiana to:

- Expand clinical training opportunities across urban and rural communities
- Develop new residency programs in underserved areas
- Strengthen pathways from education to practice for physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals
- Advance translational research through shared infrastructure and collaboration

“Crossroads Academic Medical Institute will bring a collaborative approach to increase workforce, enhance the quality, and lower the cost of healthcare in Indiana,” said Purdue president Mung Chiang. “Partnering with Marian University’s medical school and many hospital systems is the latest reflection of Purdue’s focus on Indianapolis and on One Health.”

“Indiana is building the healthcare workforce of the future, and Crossroads Academic Medical Institute positions our state as the place to be for medical education, research, innovation, and patient care,” Gov. Braun said. “By bringing together our universities, healthcare providers, and industry partners, we are creating new opportunities for Hoosiers, strengthening communities across Indiana, and ensuring our state leads the nation in developing the next generation of healthcare professionals.”

“Indiana’s ability to meet future healthcare needs depends on strong collaboration among higher education, healthcare providers, and community partners,” said Rodric Bray, President Pro Tempore of the Indiana Senate. “Crossroads Academic Medical Institute represents an innovative statewide approach that strengthens workforce development, expands medical training opportunities, and helps position Indiana for long-term success in healthcare and research.”

“Preparing the next generation of healthcare professionals is critical to Indiana’s economic future and the well-being of our communities,” said Todd Huston, Speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives. “By uniting universities, healthcare systems, and research partners statewide, Crossroads Academic Medical Institute creates new pathways for students and helps address workforce needs across Indiana.”

Healthcare leaders say the model directly addresses growing workforce and access challenges affecting communities throughout Indiana, particularly in rural and underserved areas where shortages in primary care, behavioral health, and specialty services continue to impact patient access.

“We see every day how gaps in access affect the health of our communities,” said Patrick McGill, MD, DHA, MBA, president and CEO of Community Health Network. “Crossroads Academic Medical Institute brings education, training, and care delivery closer together in a way that helps us better meet those needs. By strengthening the pipeline of caregivers across Indiana, we can expand access, improve outcomes, and ensure more patients receive the care they deserve, close to home.”

“Strong healthcare systems begin with strong clinical training, strong partnerships and a deep commitment to the communities we serve,” said Don King, CEO of Ascension St. Vincent. “Crossroads Academic Medical Institute creates a unique opportunity to strengthen Indiana’s healthcare workforce by expanding education and training opportunities for physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals across the state. Most importantly, this collaboration helps ensure that future healthcare innovation continues to improve the experience of patients and caregivers at the bedside.”

“Indiana needs more physicians and healthcare professionals, and Crossroads Academic Medical Institute is designed to meet that challenge head-on,” said Dr. Amanda Wright, Dean of Marian University’s Wood College of Osteopathic Medicine. “By connecting clinical training sites across the state, we are creating a sustainable, scalable model that supports learners while improving access to high-quality care for all Indiana residents. Just as importantly, Crossroads Academic Medical Institute strengthens the meaningful relationships between our learners and the communities they serve, ensuring that future healthcare providers are not only clinically excellent but deeply connected to the people and places that rely on them. This is an investment not only in education, but in the long-term health of our state.”

Through its partnership with the Catholic University of America, Crossroads Academic Medical Institute also aims to help establish a national model for Catholic academic medicine that focuses on research, physician formation, and community health.

“The Catholic University of America is proud to partner in an initiative that reflects the longstanding Catholic commitment to the infinite dignity of each person, compassionate care, and the advancement of knowledge in service to society,” said Peter Kilpatrick, the university’s president. “Crossroads Academic Medical Institute has the potential to become a national model for Catholic academic medicine by integrating education, research, and healthcare delivery to strengthen both communities and the healthcare profession.”

“This kind of coordinated approach is essential for health systems across the state of Indiana,” said Dr. Jamie Renbarger, Chief of Precision Health and Academic Medicine at Parkview Health. “At Parkview, we’re committed to training the next generation of healthcare professionals, investigating ways to improve care and optimize patient outcomes, and advancing rural healthcare so patients can access high-quality care close to home. Crossroads Academic Medical Institute expands access to training, research, and talent, helping ensure that communities like ours can continue to recruit and retain the clinicians our patients depend on.”

Through its collaborative research model, Crossroads Academic Medical Institute is expected to position Indiana to compete for significant new external investment and research opportunities. University leaders anticipate that the initiative could attract hundreds of millions of dollars in

future research funding, accelerating healthcare innovation, supporting discoveries and patents, and spurring new business growth across the state.

Crossroads Academic Medical Institute leaders say the initiative will continue to expand in the months ahead, with additional partners, training sites, and research collaborations expected to strengthen Indiana's healthcare workforce further and expand access to care statewide.

Visit our webpage for more information at marian.edu/cami

About Marian University

Founded in 1851 by the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana, Marian University is a Catholic Franciscan university with campuses in Indianapolis and Plymouth, Indiana. As the only Catholic university in Indianapolis and central Indiana, Marian serves more than 5,100 students, including approximately 4,000 undergraduate and 1,200 graduate students. The university offers a wide range of degree programs across the arts, business, education, engineering, mathematics, medicine, nursing, ministry, and the natural and physical sciences.

Marian's high-impact, experiential curriculum emphasizes hands-on, collaborative learning that prepares students for meaningful careers and service to their communities. The university has earned the Carnegie Classification designation as a national doctoral/professional university and is the only Franciscan research university in the United States.

In 2013, Marian University established its College of Osteopathic Medicine, the first new medical school in Indiana in more than 100 years. Continuing its commitment to meeting regional workforce needs, the university opened the E.S Witchger School of Engineering in 2023 to help address the Midwest's growing demand for STEM professionals.

Marian's championship athletic programs have earned national recognition, highlighted by the 2012 and 2015 NAIA Football National Championships, the 2016, 2017, and 2026 NAIA Women's Basketball National Championships, the 2019 NAIA Women's Volleyball National Championship, and the 2025 & 2026 NAIA Men's and Women's Track and Field National Championships. In addition, Marian student-athletes have captured nearly 50 USA Cycling national championships, underscoring the university's sustained excellence across multiple sports. Follow Marian University on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok, and Twitter.



About Purdue University

Purdue University is a public research university leading with excellence at scale. Ranked among the top 10 public universities in the United States, Purdue discovers, disseminates, and deploys knowledge with a quality and at a scale second to none. More than 106,000 students study at Purdue across multiple campuses, locations, and modalities, including more than 57,000 at our main campus locations in West Lafayette and Indianapolis. Committed to affordability and accessibility, Purdue's main campus has frozen tuition for 14 years in a row. See how Purdue never stops in the persistent pursuit of the next giant leap — including its integrated, comprehensive Indianapolis urban expansion; the Mitch Daniels School of Business; Purdue Computes; and the One Health initiative — at <https://www.purdue.edu/president/strategic-initiatives>.