Unique Corporate Training Consortium Successfully Launched

Over 130 representatives from local business organizations attended the launch of the South Central Indiana Corporate Training Partnership (SCITP) at Ivy Tech State College on Wednesday, January 28. Also present were community leaders including Doris Sims, Region 10 Director for the Indiana Department of Commerce; Linda Williamson, president of the BEDC; Steve Howard, President of the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, and Bloomington Mayor Mark Kruse.

Six months earlier in July 2003, a number of local businesses were invited by Ivy Tech to an executive briefing to discuss the development of a corporate training consortium. Ivy Tech’s goal was to facilitate a training network or consortium that will serve the diverse training and development needs of the varied-employer population of south central Indiana. Since the initial briefing, these executive briefings have been held and 19 area organizations have joined the consortium. The consortium elected to name itself the South Central Indiana Corporate Training Partnership (SCITP) and has been operated as a pilot program until its launch.

The consortium is designed as a network of employers with common training needs and goals in mind. Participation in the network will allow organizations to maximize their training budget by sharing training expenses across the consortium without sacrificing training quality. Training topics already identified by the consortium range from tactical subject areas such as computer management/supervisory skills to more complex needs such as leadership development, organizational effectiveness, and advanced manufacturing topics.

Said Ivy Tech Chancellor John Whikehart: “One of the goals of our comprehensive community college mission is responsiveness to the workforce development needs of our local communities. The consortium concept is a creative and collaborative solution to the workforce development needs of our local communities. The consortium concept is a creative and collaborative solution to the workforce development needs of our local communities. The consortium idea. “The Indiana Department of Commerce recognizes how vital a trained workforce is to the efficient operation of a business. The consortium will allow local businesses to maximize their resources to invest in their most important commodity, its workforce.”

In addition, Linda Williamson, President of the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation stated: “Life long learning is such an important component of today’s work environment and the opportunity for local companies to work jointly to provide training and learning opportunities for their employees is a tremendous asset for the Monroe County area and beyond. Ivy Tech State College provides affordable and accessible classes, timely assistance to companies, and excellent results for students.”

Other benefits to the network training approach include: localized training, broad range of training options, providing employees opportunities to continually update their professional skills, flexibility of course scheduling, opportunities for greater goodwill between employers and the community, greater employer recognition, and advancement of the local community in delivering a highly skilled workforce. “This is a much needed training and development solution for this community. The ability to provide cost-effective, quality training for the incumbent workforce of south central Indiana is critical to the overall success of the economic development of the region we serve,” said Whikehart.

Organizations wishing to find out more about the training consortium concept, or to join its membership, should contact Ryan Bass, Corporate Training Coordinator at Ivy Tech at (812) 350-0400 or email rbass@ivytech.edu. More information about the consortium, including a presentation on the concept, operating guidelines, the spring class schedule, and pricing schedules, can be found by clicking the SCITP icon on the Ivy Tech website home page (www.ivytech.edu/Bloomington).

Current Consortium Membership

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For three weeks in June, the average age of students attending classes at Ivy Tech-State College Bloomington will drop dramatically. Through its Office of Corporate and Continuing Education Services, Ivy Tech will bring three different one-week camps to area middle school students. The College for Kids program runs from June 14 through June 27 and course titles will include: Definitive Digital, Model Rocketry, Teen Cuisine, Design Fun with SolidWorks, Forensic Science, Website Building, Radical Robots, Certain Ceramics, Bling! Bling! (jewelry-making), Gigagraphics, Cartooning, Chemistry Concoctions, Computer Software Games, and The Great Balloon Adventure. Campers will spend the morning at Ivy Tech and the afternoons participating in Monroe County YMCA activities. Many sixth, seventh and eighth graders attend these classes because they are not typical school classes. Each course gives hands-on experience, and is designed to be fun! “The kids really liked being able to attend the classes at Ivy Tech in the morning and have some physical activity at the YMCA in the afternoon,” says Shelley Sallie, the Youth Family Camp Director at the YMCA. “Our motto is to create programs that create a healthy mind, body and spirit, and College for Kids does just that.”

For more information about the College for Kids program, call Janet Wingard at (812) 330-6004 or e-mail jwingard@ivytech.edu or click on the College for Kids icon on the Ivy Tech website homepage (www.ivytech.edu/bloomington).