

Students Gain Valuable Experience

Ivy Tech in conjunction with the IRS and the City of Bloomington's Community and Family Resources are once again providing tax preparation for low-income households through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

Other partners including United Way, the Monroe County Public Library, Indiana Legal Services and the Office of Family and Children will be offering the program at their facilities.

In 2005, the VITA partnership received the Indiana Career and Technical Education Award for Excellence. Along with this statewide recognition, program founders Steve Englert and Roy Elkes were chosen from 44 institutions throughout six countries to present at the Second Annual International Symposium on Service Learning at the University of Indianapolis in May.



Ivy Tech students provide FREE tax preparation to low-income families through mid-March.

The presentation focuses on VITA and how a community college can use its resources for the common good.

Chancellor Whikehart said, "We could not have anticipated the success of this program. In 2005, the program served over 230 clients generating \$287,000 in federal refunds. This partnership provides low-income families an alternative to rapid refund options that cost them a significant portion of any refund they may receive from the IRS."

The project provides students with practical experience preparing taxes under the guidance of Ivy Tech Accounting faculty while offering a much needed service to the community.

The tax preparation service began February 1, 2007.

OUR COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS



Community Partners Provide Opportunities for Students and Campus...

IVY TECH - BLOOMINGTON
CHANGING LIVES...

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Record Enrollment for Spring Semester

Ivy Tech-Bloomington's spring enrollment once again increased by double-digits. This is the ninth straight semester that the Bloomington campus has seen double-digit growth.

The college enrolled 4,505 students for the spring semester, representing a 14.1% increase over last spring. There are 557 more students attending this spring semester than were registered for the 2006 spring semester.

The Bloomington campus continues to be a leader in growth both within its own college system and it



The photo on the front of this newsletter features Ivy Tech scholarship recipients for Spring Semester 2007.

Students and scholarship donors were recognized during a reception held on January 31st at Ivy Tech.

also outpaces other public institutions of higher education in Indiana over the last few years.

Chancellor John Whikehart said that spring enrollment numbers reveal that recent growth is a trend that will continue for the foreseeable future. "Our spring enrollment shows that we are bringing new students to the campus throughout the year, and that spring semester is not just a retention semester but an entry semester for our students."

Ivy Tech Hosts "Community Chats"

Ivy Tech began hosting "Community Chats" in January. The weekly forums provide an opportunity for community issues to be discussed and debated.

Speakers to date:

- Barbara McKinney - Bloomington Human Rights Commission
- Gavin Rose - ACLU of Indiana
- Heather Macekand - Barnes and Thornberg
- Jim Kennedy - Monroe County Sheriff
- Brad Wilhelm - Rhinos
- Bob Zaltsberg - Herald-Times
- Jill Lesh - Monroe County Historical Society
- Chief Barlow & Captain Vaughan - Bloomington Fire Department



Join us at an upcoming "Community Chats" hosted by Ivy Tech Community College-Bloomington

*The community forums are held weekly at the Village Deli
409 East Kirkwood Avenue
from 7:30 am until 8:30 am*

Congressman Holds Press Conference at Ivy Tech

Ninth District Representative Baron Hill announced that the House of Representatives recently approved legislation to cut interest on student loans during a press conference held January 26th at Ivy Tech.



Congressman Baron Hill announces new legislation to assist college students with student loan debt.

Chancellor Whikehart and Susan Pugh, director of the IU Office of Student Financial Assistance, also spoke at the press conference.

Whikehart reported that Ivy Tech students were awarded more than \$3 million in loans last fall.

The new legislation proposes cutting in half the 6.8 percent interest rate on federally subsidized Stafford loans.

The American Association of Community Colleges, of which Ivy Tech is a member, has announced that it will support the legislation.

Instructor Receives President's Award

John Rucker, Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice, at Ivy Tech-Bloomington, was recently selected as a recipient of the 2006 President's Award. This accolade automatically makes Rucker a nominee for the Glenn W. Sample Award for Excellence in Instruction. This award, recognizing excellence in teaching, is the highest honor the College awards a faculty member.

The President's Award for Excellence in Instruction is presented annually to one faculty member from each of Ivy Tech's 14 regions. The award is given to a full-time or part-time faculty member whose principal tasks involve direct instructional activities with students. Recipients of the President's award also receive a \$500 professional development grant.

Rucker brings 36 years of legal experience to the classroom. His teaching style both challenges and motivates his students. He not only prepares his students for success in the classroom, he prepares them to lead successful lives. Beyond teaching, Rucker works as a student advisor and a mentor.

He is actively involved with the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program and the Rotary Club.

Ivy Tech Loses Colleague & Friend

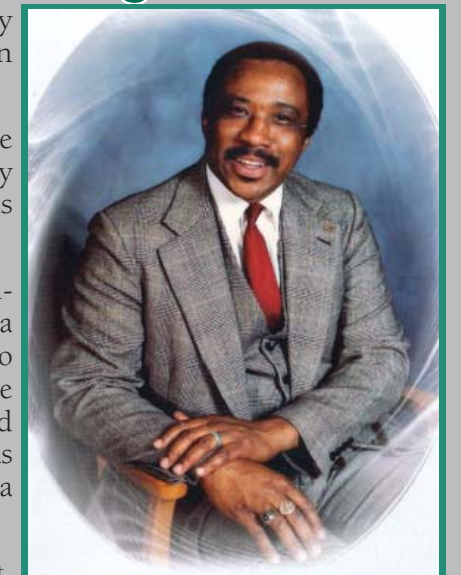
Fred Jones, Retention Specialist at Ivy Tech-Bloomington, passed away on December 31, 2006.

Fred was a passionate educator. That he would come out of retirement to join Ivy Tech as an adjunct instructor in 2002 is just one example of his passion.

He enthusiastically met everyday challenges with dignity. He could also be a master in persuasion when it came to supporting the needs of students. More than one person has admitted that Fred convinced them to do something that was nearly impossible in an effort to benefit a student.

Students depended on him for support. He celebrated each student success while also holding them accountable for their success. This kind of treatment endeared students to him. He would check-up on the progress of his former students and they would stop by his office to let him know how they were doing or just for encouragement.

Fred touched everyone in his own way. He was a teacher, an advocate for students, a respected colleague, and a cherished friend.



Fred Jones
*Passionate Educator
Student Advocate
and Mentor*

**Ivy Tech
Community College
2002 - 2006**