Ivy Tech Leases Additional Space

Ivy Tech has leased an additional 8,500 square feet in a facility located at 1907 Liberty Drive in Bloomington. The new facility will be ready to accommodate students when the college’s fall semester begins on August 20, 2007.

The space accommodates 6 classrooms, a commons area with vending and seating for students, and office space for adjunct instructors teaching at the facility. The college’s Life Sciences office, currently located at another leased facility, has moved into the Liberty drive location. This location brings them closer to the larger life science employers in Bloomington. The lease is the second the campus has added in as many years due to rapid growth.

The college’s main campus location, built to accommodate growth well into the next decade, is already at capacity. Thanks to the efforts of State Senator Vi Simpson, the recent legislative session resulted in funding for new architectural and engineering study for new campus construction.

In addition to the new Liberty drive location and the Depot building that the campus began leasing last year, Ivy Tech - Bloomington has over 500 students taking courses at the Community Learning Center of Lawrence County in Bedford. Classes have also been offered during the past few years at various locations in Martinsville and Spencer.
Ivy Tech recently hosted its fourth annual College for Kids program. Registration for this program, a joint venture between Ivy Tech and the YMCA, has increased from 53 participants last year to 81 students this year.

College for Kids combines interactive classes for 11 to 14 year-old students. Thanks to sponsorships from the 21st Century Scholars, fifteen students have participated in this year's College for Kids program.

College for Kids courses combine information and practical experience. In the morning students take "classes" at Bloomington's campus and then they take part in classes offered each week during the three week program. Instructors have included Officer Jim Graft, Bloomington Police Department, Brian Kleber, Director of the Small Business Development Center and Doug Bruce of Tabor Bruce Architecture and Design.

Ivy Tech recently received a $549,798 Advanced Technological Education grant from the National Science Foundation. Through a number of collaborative efforts with area and national life science partners, the grant facilitates the development of a technical training accessible via a number of entry points.

Development partners include Indiana University, regional life science employers, Owen Valley High School and the Northeastern Biomanufacturing Collaborative Center at New Hampshire Community Technical College.

"Grants from the National Science Foundation are primarily awarded to four year research institutions," said Chancellor John Whitehart. "This award acknowledges that the community college has a pivotal role to play in the development of the life sciences in our area, and that Ivy Tech – Bloomington's life science efforts are nationally recognized as being of the highest quality."

As part of the project Ivy Tech will continue to develop courses that result in career development certificates. The certificates can be obtained either prior to employment or during employment, and will meet the specific needs of local employers.

In an expanded partnership with the Northeastern Biomanufacturing Collaborative Center, the college will develop a capstone educational experience that gives trainees experience in real-time production while providing industrial partners with modest-scale quantities of materials for development and testing. The grant also provides partnership opportunities with IU, Owen Valley High School and others to increase the number of pathways in order to produce well-trained life science employees.

Work with IU allows baccalaureate-level graduates to come to Ivy Tech to augment knowledge with the technical skills needed to succeed in the life science industry.

Ivy Tech's surging enrollment growth is credited, in part, to an increase in credit hours that transfer to four-year universities throughout the state. The number of credits transferring between Ivy Tech – Bloomington and its closest four-year partner, Indiana University Bloomington, has swelled from 39 credits less than five years ago to well over 400 transferable credit hours today.

Ivy Tech Community College and Indiana University recently identified more than 100 courses that will transfer between the two institutions and added six liberal arts concentrations that will articulate. These moves are expected to add to the explosive growth of the Ivy Tech – Bloomington campus in the coming years.
Picnic with the POPS

This year's Picnic with the POPS, held June 30th on the Ivy Tech campus, was a huge success with over 3000 people enjoying music, food, children activities and fireworks. Ivy Tech has hosted this favorite community event for the past four years.

The year's event featured the Bloomington POPS Orchestra, conducted by Chris Ludwa, the Rise and Shine Cloggers, and soprano Tracy Thomas, singing medleys ranging from James Bond movies to a tribute to Julie Andrews. The concert began with the children's parade, a military color guard and salute to our armed forces. The concert ended with a rousing performance of the 1812 Overture complete with cannons and a fabulous fireworks finale.

The Cannoneers of the 150th Field, 2nd Battalion of the Indiana National Guard and their families were special guest at this year's event. Many of these men and women will soon be deployed to Iraq for a second tour.

The Picnic with the POPS steering committee raised over $40,000 worth of in-kind services from sponsors and underwriters. Seventy-five volunteers spent the day driving go-carts, staffing activities in the childrens area and tending to various other tasks throughout the day. Thanks to everyone involved for another successful Picnic with the POPS at Ivy Tech.

College for Working Adults

Beginning this fall semester, the Bloomington campus will offer the College for Working Adults (CWA) program. Degree programs offered through CWA include Criminal Justice, Design Technology and Health Information Technology.

The new program is part of a key strategy to increase the number of Ivy Tech students who can complete their degrees and accomplish that more quickly than is typical for our students.

CWA is different from previous compressed courses/programs that have been offered as it is co-hort based, guarantees a predictable schedule and that courses will not be cancelled. The program uses technology in instructional delivery.
Ivy Tech unveiled its latest program, the Center for Lifelong Learning, during a ceremony held Tuesday, July 31st at the Stone Age Institute. The Center for Lifelong Learning offers noncredit learning opportunities ranging from how to prepare for your financial future to how to cook the perfect steak. Instructors lined up to teach these noncredit classes include experts from throughout the community.

In January, Susie Graham, former Executive Vice-President of the Bloomington Board of REALTORS, was appointed as the director of the Center for Lifelong Learning. Since that time, she has been developing noncredit classes that appeal to the lifelong learning student as well as the first-time student.

“The Center for Lifelong Learning was developed to bring together the best in noncredit learning from Ivy Tech,” said Graham. “We have branched out from traditional continuing education programs in order to better serve our community. We are now offering forums like ‘Community Chats’ as well as classroom opportunities to ratchet up workplace skills.”

Ivy Tech will be joining Indiana University’s Continuing Studies, MCC-SC Adult Education and the City of Bloomington in a weeklong effort to promote adult learning opportunities in the area. The program entitled the “Week of Lifelong Learning” runs from September 9th through the 15th and will include a discussion about the importance of lifelong learning. The discussion features veteran Herald-Times sportswriter Bob Hammel and will be moderated by screenwriter Angelo Pizzo.

Visit www.ivytech.edu/Bloomington/CLL for a complete list of noncredit learning opportunities or call (812) 330-6041 to request a catalog or to register for classes.

Adjunct Instructor Publishes Novel

Vicki Saari (spelling), and adjunct instructor in communications, recently published her first novel entitled “Hogarth”. She began writing the novel in 2001 when she moved back to Indiana. Saari has been teaching at Ivy Tech since 2002. She started teaching when the Bloomington campus was located in Westbury Village.

The novel, told by the Hogarth’s family home, recounts the story of the family that built the house. As seen through the eyes of their first house. Saari says the idea for this book came from her own experience of moving into several different houses. “I moved 17 times in 16 years,” said Saari. “I have wallpapered over 200 rooms. I have an affinity for houses.

Saari currently teaches 6-8 classes including Public Speaking (?) and Mass Communication (?) on the Bloomington campus.

“I’ve had a lot to learn...don’t want to take away from the fun and the adventure.

It took Saari five years from start to finish to write her novel. She would write three to six hours in the evening. Saari said she let the characters write their own stories. This was a difficult process because she had to keep the continuity flowing throughout the book.

Writing and editing the novel was a family affair. Saari would email copies of chapters to her son and daughter for their suggestions, she would read finished chapters to her family. Her families input sometimes affected the direction of the book. Saari had to rewrite the story after her mother reacted strongly to the death of one of the book’s characters. She said, “You can’t kill Jessie,” Saari recounted while laughing. Saari said that she then had to figure out a way for the character to have a miraculous recovery.

Saari grew up in Heltonville, Indiana. She lives within ten minutes of the property given to her great-great-grandfather for surviving the American Revolution.

When asked about a second novel, Saari responded, “Give me a year.”

“Hogarth” is available on amazon.com.