Ivy Tech Community College Bloomington celebrated diversity by exposing its students to the rich culture within the Bloomington community during “A Diversity Experience – A Day of Cultural Arts and Understanding.” The free event was held in December in the Ivy Tech Student Commons.

Event highlights included a performance from The Gumboot Dancers, free food samples which were native to various cultures and international music.
Nurse Pinning Ceremony Held at Ivy Tech Community College – Bloomington

Chancellor John Whikehart and Division Chair for Health Sciences Kay Leach presided over a pinning ceremony for students in the Practical Nursing program on December 7, 2007.

John Whikehart, Ivy Tech Community College of Bloomington Chancellor, said he is proud that graduating students will make a difference in the region’s healthcare system. “The Life and Health Sciences community recognizes our nursing program as one that produces quality graduates who will be an integral part of any health care team.”

Upon graduation, nursing students are hired by nursing homes, medical clinics, doctor offices and home health care businesses. The Practical Nursing Program at Ivy Tech Community College-Bloomington is a one-year course of study leading to a technical certificate, and the program prepares the individual to take the state licensure exam to become a licensed practical nurse.

Ivy Tech-Bloomington’s Practical Nursing program was developed in 1966 through the cooperative efforts of Bloomington Hospital, the public school system, and a grant from the Federal Government. At this time, Ivy Tech – Bloomington’s Practical Nursing program has graduated 2,196 students.

Ivy Tech – Bloomington recently started the Student Ambassador Program. Students in the program assist the college with enrollment and retention activities, including new student orientation, while acquiring professional training and experience with leadership, programming and networking. The students serve as role models for current and prospective students. Recently, the Student Ambassador leaders attended a conference on orientation.

The next day we went to the opening dinner, in which we heard some amazing speakers and ate some delicious food. Dr. Verna Corneula Price spoke to us about “The Power of Change.”

The next day we got up early and went to an “Interest Session” for two-year colleges. I was surprised, as were my fellow student ambassadors, because we were the only students in the room. We sat quietly and listened to the people talk about their orientations, and we realized that our Ivy Tech Bloomington orientation was by far ahead of the game. Every idea that the people brought up, my group just looked at each other as if to say “Oh, we do that already.” What really made us feel special was after the session ended, a number of the people from our meeting greeted us and expressed how impressed they were that we, as student ambassadors for Ivy Tech, represented ourselves in such a professional manner.

The rest of that day and the next we continued to impress people with our ideas and ways of doing things at Ivy Tech. I can honestly say that I, along with my fellow ambassadors, took so much pride in what we were doing, and we all realized how lucky we were to have the young innovative advisors that we have. I had a few conversations with other students who complained that they were somewhat jealous we had such exciting advisors, who help to make our program exciting.

As we boarded the plane for home, I looked at the booklet which we received from NODA, displaying an image of Dallas. I remember walking in the hotel, feeling out of place because I wasn’t “rich.” I soon realized that, although I may not have walked in rich, I was leaving rich, full of abundant ideas and new relationships. I have always heard that college was a time for going places that you have never been before, both physically and mentally. By those standards alone, this trip was a success. Now, I look forward to orientation, and applying all I have learned.
Ivy Tech – Bloomington 3rd Fastest Growing Community College in Nation

Ivy Tech Community College – Bloomington has been listed as the 3rd fastest growing community college in the nation by Community College Week among colleges with enrollment between 2,500 and 4,999. The enrollment numbers are based on enrollment figures for the fall 2006 semester. Ivy Tech – Bloomington exceeded a headcount of 5,000 students this past fall.

The Ivy Tech – Bloomington campus has been growing at a rapid pace the past few years, having nearly doubled its enrollment since moving into its Westside facility. This fall the campus leased an additional location in Bloomington after surging enrollments resulted in the need for more classrooms. The lease is the second that the College has entered into in as many years, having moved its Workforce and Economic Development Department and Center for Lifelong Learning to a building in downtown Bloomington in 2006. In the 2007 legislative session, $350,000 was allocated by the General Assembly to begin the planning process for an addition to the Bloomington campus to accommodate growth.

John Whikehart, Ivy Tech Community College – Bloomington Chancellor, stated that the ranking provides further evidence for the expansion of its facilities and it demonstrates that the community has embraced Ivy Tech as a gateway to higher education. “Ivy Tech – Bloomington is engaged in meeting the needs of our community, whether those needs are credits that can be transferred to our four year partners or certificates and degrees that allow our students to meet the workforce education needs of the community. We are growing rapidly, and the campus will need additional resources to continue to fulfill the needs of the communities it serves.”
Ivy Tech Community College – Bloomington's programs in Manufacturing and Industrial Technology, Design Technology and Electronics and Computer Technology have received Accreditation from the National Association of Industrial Technology (NAIT). This accreditation, effective November 2007, continues through October 2009.

John Whikehart, Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana – Bloomington Chancellor, said that this accreditation demonstrates Ivy Tech’s commitment to excellence. “We are pleased to receive accreditation from the National Association of Industrial Technology. We have known for some time that our faculty provide exceptional instruction to our students and that those graduating from our technology programs succeed in business and industry. This national recognition ensures that prospective students will be aware of the high quality education they can obtain at Ivy Tech – Bloomington, and that local employers will know they are hiring graduates who have completed a rigorous program of instruction.”

Ivy Tech Community College recently hosted the second annual Vex Robotics Design System Tournament. Participants were challenged to control a robot by radio.

About 400 students competed in the event, making 82 teams. It is estimated that about 140 teams competed around the state in similar competitions. Kirk Barnes, Ivy Tech – Bloomington Chair of the School of Technology, hosted the largest competition in the Ivy Tech Student Commons.

Sponsors of the competition included COOK Inc., Bloomington Robotics Club, Ivy Tech Community College - Bloomington, Jack & Jill Day Care, the Awards Center, and SolidWorks Corp.

An important part of the contest was the “registration fee” for each team. Each team was required to bring five non-perishable food items as the cost of registering for the competition. The team with the most food, in weight, brought to the contest won the Community Service award. A total of 795 pounds of food was brought to the event, and all of it was donated to Hoosier Hills food bank.