On April 11-12, Student Leadership Academy (SLA) members from Ivy Tech - Bloomington met other Ivy Tech SLA members at Anderson University for their annual SLA Capstone.

The Student Leadership Academy is a year long program that allows students to learn about leadership styles, gain facilitation skills, presentation skills, and become better leaders. SLA members take on key roles in student groups and show leadership in their community through civic engagement.

The Capstone is a chance for SLA groups from each campus to make presentations on their leadership development throughout the year.

Students interested in applying for the Fall 2008 Student Leadership Academy should contact Keith Klein, SLA Advisor at kklein@ivytech.edu.
On the cover: Frazier Josephus Hillsman II, Associate of Science Graduate, General Studies

**COMMENCEMENT 2008**

**Indiana University Auditorium**

**Friday, May 16, 2008**

490 **students have completed their**
educations at Ivy Tech by earning associates degrees, technical certificates, and certifications. These students include workers who were laid off from local manufacturing facilities, including General Electric, and students who are preparing to transfer to four-year institutions.

John Whitehart, Chancellor, Ivy Tech Community College - Bloomington says the commencement ceremony is a significant event for all involved. "The faculty, staff and administration at the Bloomington campus look forward to celebrating these great achievements with our graduates each year. These students should be recognized for their commitment to education and the sacrifices they have made to reach their goals." 

**HONORS DAY CEREMONY**

**Ivy Tech - Bloomington**

**Friday, May 16, 2008**

**34% of students graduated with honors**

this year, and were recognized during the Honors Day Ceremony prior to commencement.

John Whitehart, Chancellor, Ivy Tech Community College - Bloomington offered a heartfelt congratulations to the families of honors graduates. "You have been the backbone of support for these students, and no one is happier than you today," he said. "To graduates, it's up to you to help us build a reputation now. Ivy Tech's reputation doesn't lie with the folks who work here – we are simply stewards for all of you." 

**GRADUATE SNAPSHOTS**

"I really enjoyed my time at Ivy Tech, it gave me a chance to do something for me and I now have a feeling of accomplishment."

— Heather Coulter, Associate of Applied Science Graduate, Office Administration

"As I leave the halls of Ivy Tech - Bloomington, I would like to say thank you to those of you who have helped in any way in my success. And would like to say to everyone that enters the College to go after your dreams and never give up on what you want out of life."

— Joanie Johnson, Associate of Applied Science Graduate, Office Administration

**STUDENTS NAMED TO ALL-INDIANA ACADEMIC TEAM**

Debbie Head, a Radiation Therapy major, and Debra Stockhover, an Accounting major, were among the 28 students named to the All-Indiana Academic Team. The competition which scores students on academic honors, leadership activities, work experience, and an essay, is sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society for two year colleges, USA TODAY, and the American Association of Community Colleges.

Debbie Head, an Accounting major, and Debra Stockhover, a Radiation Therpay major, were chosen for the Academic First Team. Head has been an active participant in the Student Government Association, a volunteer for community organizations and was a member of the College’s 2007 Alternative Spring Break team. Stockhover is active as a community volunteer, both with the Bloomington Hospital Foundation and the American Cancer Society.
Lisa Hubbard
Associate of Applied Science Graduate, Office Administration —

After working 16 years for General Electric, I experienced my first major layoff and work displacement on April 1, 2005. This opened the door for many GE employees to obtain a career in a field we would and could use to get away from a factory environment.

I have to say that my first semester at Ivy Tech was one of many questions to myself. Did I make the right decision? Am I sure this is the right class for me? Will I succeed and obtain my degree? Most of these questions, however, were put to rest by my instructors: Diane Purnell, New Student Seminar GTS class, gave me continued advice, support and encouragement. John Meed, English Composition 101, kept encouraging me to be myself and put my best effort forward. Connie Maxwell, CIS 101, was a tough teacher, but one I respect. Connie put forward a stern, tough appearance, but once I got to know her I broke the ice and she was very helpful with class assignments.

I have applied my course structure to my work place as a Front Desk Receptionist for a family physician. In my current career, I am learning every day, meeting new people, and enjoying what I do.

Lisa Hunsicker
Associate of Applied Science Graduate, Early Childhood Education and General Studies —

“I decided to attend college to give my children the same inspiration and desire to learn that my step-mom gave me.” | Cindy Rentas

Of the 490 graduates this year, over 200 attended the commencement ceremony on Friday, May 16

Lisa Hunsicker
Associate of Applied Science Graduate, Early Childhood Education and General Studies —

I started out at Ivy Tech in May of 2001. My twins had just finished kindergarten, and I had always wanted to go to college, so now that the kids were going to be in school all day, this was my chance! So, I signed up at Ivy Tech – Bloomington, and went. I earned a certificate and Associate’s in Early Childhood Education and an Associate’s in General Studies from Ivy Tech. I couldn’t have done it without the support of my family and all the wonderful staff at Ivy Tech.

Cindy Rentas
Associate of Applied Science Graduate, Computer Information Systems —

Taking classes at Ivy Tech - Bloomington has been one of the most enjoyable experiences in my educated lifetime. The instructors at Ivy Tech for the most part are very helpful and seem to really be interested in the students’ education.

I was inspired by my step-mother, who graduated some years ago with a degree in Accounting, from Ivy Tech. By watching her, and interacting with the faculty and staff, I learned that age does not matter, but what you do with your life is the most important. If you learn nothing else, you learn that an education is the most valuable asset you can have. I decided to attend college to give my children the same inspiration and desire to learn that my step-mom gave me.

I have grown to love Ivy Tech. I have spent the last three years here and feel protective over it, like it is my very own campus. ✿
Congratulations to Dr. Lou Pierro, associate professor and program chair for Computer Information Systems and Computer Information Technology, for earning the 2008 President’s Award for Excellence in Instruction, and being nominated for the Glenn W. Sample Award for Excellence in Instruction. The Glenn W. Sample award is the highest honor that Ivy Tech Community College awards to faculty members statewide.

“Dr. Lou Pierro brings 38 years of teaching experience to the classroom, and provides each of her students with the opportunity to achieve success. She has a passion for her students’ education, and wants them to succeed,” said John Whikehart, Chancellor of Ivy Tech Community College - Bloomington. ✤

Conversation with CNN Political Analyst, Paul Begala

On Friday, April 25, CNN political analyst Paul Begala highlighted the day’s discussion with commentary on the 2008 Presidential candidates.

Annual Dinner, Featuring Sam Donaldson, ABC News Veteran

The fundraising dinner held April 24 featuring ABC News veteran Sam Donaldson, was more well-attended than ever before, with more than 300 guests. Donaldson spoke on the importance of the Indiana vote in the 2008 Presidential election.

Panelist Discussions

Ivy Tech hosted panelist discussions on Friday, April 25, on how candidates’ positions on the topics of Healthcare, Education, and the Environment will affect the 2008 Presidential election.

Day of Service

Students, faculty and staff kicked off the O’Bannon Institute with community service projects on Thursday, April 24.

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PROFESSOR NOMINATED FOR HIGHEST HONOR

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Dr. Lou Pierro receives her award, presented by Dr. James Smith, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs