Panel Discussions | May 1 at Ivy Tech - Bloomington in the Student Commons

Healthcare, Foreign Policy, and the Economy in the first 100 Days of the Obama Presidency

8:30 a.m.  Registration (Continental Breakfast)
9:00 a.m.  Welcome remarks by Judy O’Bannon
9:40 a.m.  Panel Discussion 1 - Healthcare
11:00 a.m.  Panel Discussion 2 - Foreign Policy
1:15 p.m.  Panel Discussion 3 - Economy
2:30 p.m.  Conversation with Eugene Robinson, political columnist for The Washington Post and regular contributor to MSNBC
On March 4, Ivy Tech concluded the last of its three visits by the Higher Learning Commission necessary for statewide accreditation. The Higher Learning Commission’s team provided an initial recommendation for another ten year period of accreditation for the entire college.

Accreditation Renewed

On March 13, 2009, 12 students and 2 staff members from Ivy Tech Community College - Bloomington traveled to the Mexican town of Calnali for a week of service-learning and cultural experiences. This is the third Alternative Spring Break (ASB) trip organized by Ivy Tech - Bloomington’s Center for Civic Engagement, and the second trip to Calnali, which is located in the state of Hidalgo.

The ASB family spent much of their time engaged in service projects, such as CONSTRUCTING CONCRETE FLOORS for Calnali families. When they were not busy with construction projects, students VISITED WITH CALNALI RESIDENTS. Ivy Tech students handed out DONATED CLOTHING AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES to Calnali students.

Each semester the Center for Lifelong Learning at the Depot attracts hundreds of learners to the downtown area. Its success is a reflection of Ivy Tech’s dedication to providing personal and professional enrichment opportunities through community partnerships, and enhancing the skills of Indiana’s workforce.

— Chancellor John Whikehart

Science & Engineering Fair on Campus

Middle and high school students from around the region participated in the South Central Indiana Regional Science & Engineering Fair on Ivy Tech’s campus on March 7. Students competed in 17 different categories, including biochemistry, physics and astronomy, and computer science.

Student Outsmarts Tax Software

Since 2004, Ivy Tech Community College – Bloomington has been offering free tax preparation services through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA). This year, Ivy Tech student Sabrina Carter, who was preparing tax returns as a VITA volunteer, discovered a new tax credit that had been missed by the software. The credit provides tax relief for Midwestern disaster areas. "I was doing my own taxes, and didn’t like the amount I was getting back,” said Sabrina. "I decided to look through the fine print in the 1040 instructions to try and find something I missed.” Sure enough, she found the Midwestern disaster relief credit. Her discovery has made a sizable difference to the many people having their taxes prepared by the VITA program at Ivy Tech - Bloomington.
A**nnie Gray, Program Chair and Associate Professor of English, is the 2009 President’s Award recipient at the Bloomington campus, and nominee for the statewide Glenn W. Sample Award.**

The President’s Award for Excellence in Instruction is presented annually to a faculty member from each of Ivy Tech’s 14 regions and is an effort to recognize faculty who typify excellence in instruction. Out of the 14 regions, one of the nominees is then chosen to receive the Glenn W. Sample Award for Excellence in Instruction. The statewide award winner will be announced in June.

Chancellor John Whikehart says that Annie Gray exemplifies the mission of Ivy Tech Community College. “She has produced outstanding results through her contributions to workforce development, her personal attention to students, and her commitment to expanding academic offerings and transfer options,” he said. “It is with great pride that our campus has nominated Annie for the 2009 Glenn W. Sample Award, and I can think of no more worthy recipient.”

Gray has organized numerous teaching projects, participated in the pilot project of Ivy Tech’s College for Kids program, designed scientific writing courses for Baxter Pharmaceuticals, and incorporated the Campus Common Reading project into her English Composition curriculum. Gray also played a role in organizing a “community of learners” project with Program Chair of History, Donn Hall, and Chancellor John Whikehart.

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**Dr. Fred Nolen recently delivered a lecture on campus titled “Combat Trauma (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) - The Invisible Wounds and The Invisible War Back Home for Troops and Their Families.”** The lecture was held on March 5 and was open to the community.

Nolen, adjunct instructor of psychology at Ivy Tech Community College - Bloomington, explored the various symptoms and treatments of combat Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in his lecture, as well as answered audience questions afterwards.
Student-Organized Events in March

Family Fun Bowling Night

After a well-attended, free bowling night during the fall semester, Campus Activities Board hosted another Family Fun Bowling Night. The activity took place on March 12 for Ivy Tech students, family, and friends.

Student Creativity on Display

Campus Activities Board organized an open art show for all Ivy Tech - Bloomington students, staff, and faculty on March 10 and 11.

Women’s History Month

During the month of March, Ivy Tech - Bloomington celebrated Women’s History Month. This year’s theme, Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet, recognized the important work of women in the environmental movement.

On March 24, students were treated to a “Soup and Substance” presentation with environmental educator Elisa Pokrol. In addition, students were provided the opportunity to customize their own reusable canvas bag.