

March, 2007  
Community Newsletter

I want to take this opportunity to review the progress of the Community Education Coalition (CEC) with you. As some of you know, this community initiative began about 10 years ago with three simply stated purposes, including:

- Achieving greater cooperation among the K-12 public schools and local post-secondary institutions,
- Expanding degree and non-degree programs at IUPUC and Ivy Tech, and
- Supporting improvement in student achievement.

Using the founding goals of the Coalition, we have seen considerable progress.

### **Progress in Local Post-Secondary Education**

In 1996, Ivy Tech was perceived as a vocational and technical institution, doing apprenticeship and skills training, and offering Associate Degrees in several disciplines, primarily for those either entering the local and area workforce or seeking additional credentials to qualify for better jobs or advancement.

IUPUC, as a sub-branch of IUPUI, was primarily a feeder for the Indianapolis, Bloomington or West Lafayette campuses. With the exception of courses leading to an IU B.S. Degree in General Studies and Psychology or a Purdue Degree in Organizational Leadership and Supervision, students in other fields could take first- and second-year courses, then transfer to IU, Purdue or another college to complete their undergraduate degrees.

In addition to beginning-level courses, each of the institutions contracted with local and area businesses and industry to offer advanced employee training programs. They were, essentially, competing for the same students.

Back then, with a few exceptions, none of the Ivy Tech credits would transfer to I.U., Purdue or other Indiana colleges.

In 1996, the combined enrollment at Ivy Tech, IUPUC, and Purdue University College of Technology was 2700. Today, the combined enrollment is in excess of 4500 students.

Even with academic limitations, all three institutions (Ivy Tech, IUPUC and Purdue School of Technology) had been growing and needed more and improved classroom, library and student services space and especially, up-to-date technology.

Through its support of expanded facilities (which resulted in the State-financed 130,000 sq. ft., high-tech Columbus Learning Center) the community leveraged approval of additional degree programs to meet community and area needs at all three post-secondary institutions.

Today, by taking courses on the local campus, a student can graduate with an Indiana University B. S. and MBA degrees in Business; and B.S. in Elementary Education, Nursing, Communication Studies, English, Sociology, Psychology and General Studies.

The local campus of Purdue College of Technology now offers all courses leading to Bachelor of Science degrees in Industrial Technology, Computer and Information Technology and Organizational Leadership and Supervision, with the B.S. in Mechanical Engineering Technology (MET) pending final approval by the Purdue

faculty and Dean. The possibility of a local M.S. degree in MET is being explored.

Ivy Tech is now a full-fledged Community College, a role of significant importance to Indiana's future and that of our citizens, thanks in large part to the persistent advocacy of our own Bob Garton and others. The College, whose enrollment has grown to 2,495 students, is becoming a college of choice for many first-time students who can now complete an Associate Degree program at Ivy Tech and, if they choose, transfer their credits to IUPUC or other colleges toward completion of a Bachelors Degree.

Ivy Tech offers over 70 programs leading to Associate degrees and/or certificates in Business (including office administration and computer technology and systems), Design, Manufacturing and Industrial Technology, Liberal Arts (including English, psychology, life and physical sciences, math and social sciences); Fine Art and Design; Health Sciences (including dental and medical assisting, nursing, radiologic and surgical technology); Public and Social Services, and Education (specifically early childhood and secondary foreign language and social science specialties). Departments of Workforce and Economic Development and Academic Skills Advancement provide continuing education and training for the area workforce.

### **IUPUC and Ivy Tech Nursing Programs Respond to Severe Nursing Shortage**

Advancement and growth of Nursing programs at Ivy Tech and IUPUC illustrate the win/win benefits of inter-institutional and community collaboration.

A study in 2003 by CEC consultant Jim Battin uncovered a severe and growing shortage of certified nurses in regional hospitals and healthcare institutions created by improved healthcare services, retirements and normal attrition. In addition, Bachelors Degree-trained RN's were needed to fill key administrative and supervisory leadership positions in all area hospitals.

Financial support of \$711,000 by Columbus Regional, Decatur Memorial, Johnson Memorial, Schneck Medical (Jackson County) and St. Vincent Jennings hospitals plus \$300,000 contributed by Nugent and Custer Foundations persuaded the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, State Board of Nursing and central office administrators at IUPUI and Ivy Tech to allow expansion of nursing programs at both institutions.

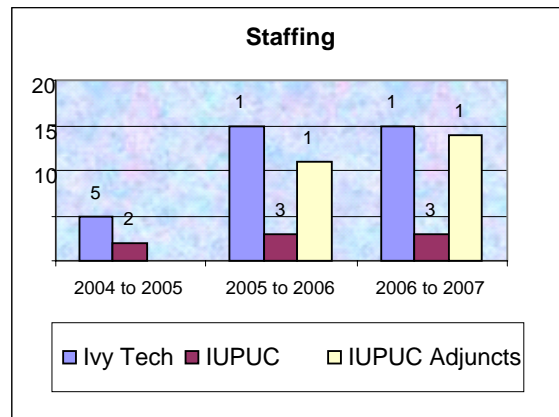
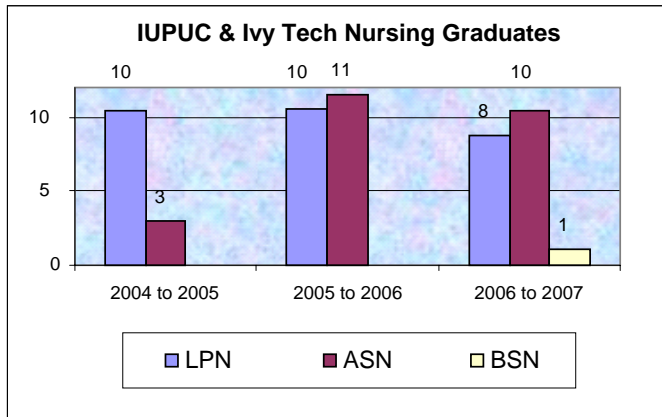
Another key has been Columbus Regional assigning some of its senior nursing staff to serve as instructors, augmenting the Ivy Tech and IUPUC faculties.

This initiative has resulted in growth from the 20-30 graduating RN's in 2000 to more than 100 annually in 2006. Columbus Regional's Senior Vice President Cherona Hajewski reports, "This is a major success story. Bartholomew County, along with surrounding counties currently have our RN demand met."

In addition, Ivy Tech is training approximately 100 Licensed Practical Nurses per year.

This fall, IUPUC, which is offering the final two years of courses, will graduate its first class of baccalaureate degree nurses, most of the candidates having completed their Associate Degree in Nursing (RN) course work either at Ivy Tech or IUPUC.

The following two charts document the success of the nursing programs and number of graduates by each of the institutions.



### Columbus Learning Center Serving As Popular Community Asset

In addition to the more than 4,000 students who are in and out of the \$25 million facility, groups in the community area increasingly schedule the Learning Center's Nugent-Custer Lecture Hall, Commons area, Summerville meeting room, classrooms, "main street" corridor and administrative meeting rooms for special events, lectures and programs.

### Works by Area Artists and Professionals On Display

Gallery spaces on both floors of the building display art produced by area and state artists and students. Currently photographs by staff of The Republic, paintings by artist and print-maker Laurie Wright, photographs by Ivy Tech department head Jonathan Wilson, pottery by Story potter Larry Spears, paintings by former Columbus resident Jerry Points, and a photograph by professional photographer and Ivy Tech instructor Darryl Jones are on display.

I encourage you to visit the Learning Center and view the art. You will be impressed.

### CEC's Strategic Goals

- Promote the value and importance of a seamless learning system that offers accessible, affordable education for students of all ages,
- Serve as an advocate for excellence in education,
- Foster collaboration to advance student achievement across the entire learning system (Pre-K through grade 16 and beyond)
- Strongly support and encourage education partners as they attract, develop and retain the highest quality faculty,
- Serve as a catalyst for establishing Columbus as a regional center for higher education and workforce development,
- Foster a stronger linkage between economic development and education initiatives,
- Encourage efficient and effective use of resources, including sharing and complementary services,
- Evaluate and measure educational system progress against goals and report regularly to the community.

### CEC Board of Directors Members

In addition to myself, members of the CEC Board of Directors are Mayor Fred Armstrong, Chris Beach, Jesse Brand, James Buchanan, John Burnett, Corey Carr, Tom Clerkin, Philip Deardorff, Harold Force, Mark Gerstle, Cherona Hajewski, Jack Hess, John Hogan, Jay Howard, Larry Kleinhenz, Joe Loughrey, Angie May, Will Miller, Nasser Paydar, John Quick, Andy Schaffer, Hutch Schumaker, Sherry Stark, Tracy Souza, Don Trapp and Nancy Warren.

Some of these board members act as committee chairs for the important work of the CEC. We will continue to keep you updated on our progress.

Sincerely,  
Chairman  
Dick Johnson