

# IVYTECH

COMMUNITY COLLEGE MAGAZINE

SPRING 2015



## COMMENCEMENT 2015

*Graduates celebrate, prepare for future success*

**PRESIDENT OBAMA VISITS INDIANAPOLIS CAMPUS**







## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Commencement season is always an incredibly special time at Ivy Tech Community College. And this year, it was especially poignant, coming just a few months after President Barack Obama's visit to Ivy Tech. In his comments at our Indianapolis campus, the President called Ivy Tech among "the best in the country" and reinforced the life-changing opportunities we make available to our students and their families.

In this issue of *Ivy Tech Community College Magazine*, you'll hear from students who sat in the same room as the President and heard his comments. You'll also read about students who have completed their degrees and are pursuing career goals thanks to Ivy Tech. For all of these individuals, their time at Ivy Tech has proven transformative. Whether through a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity like shaking the President's hand or the experience of walking across the stage to receive a diploma, Ivy Tech provides meaning and value.

In his remarks, President Obama singled out one of our students, Jyliann Milham, and mentioned that her pursuit of a college degree was as much for her children as it was for herself. Then the President smiled, and said of Jyliann: "That's who I get up for every day." And that's who we at Ivy Tech Community College get up for every day, too. At Ivy Tech Community College, our students continue to inspire us—and we trust the stories in this magazine will inspire you as well.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Snyder, President

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Ivy Tech has 32 degree-granting locations throughout Indiana, allowing students to take classes close to home or work. We also offer classes at additional sites, bringing us closer to an even greater number of cities and towns.

## NEW PATHWAY CREATES OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO ENTER PURDUE'S COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Ivy Tech Community College is teaming up with Purdue University to help students earn a bachelor's degree in engineering—one of the state's most sought-after fields, according to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development's "Hoosier Hot 50 Jobs" list.

Ivy Tech pre-engineering graduates will have the opportunity to continue their studies toward a bachelor's degree in one of two engineering disciplines—civil engineering or environmental and ecological engineering—at Purdue's College of Engineering.

"Transfer agreements like this make it easier and more affordable for our students to transfer and complete their bachelor's degree," says Dr. Mary Ostrye, Senior Vice President and Provost at Ivy Tech. "This agreement represents a great move forward as we continue to partner with four-year institutions across the state to create seamless transfer opportunities for our students."

In the most recent U.S. News and World Report rankings of undergraduate programs, Purdue's College of Engineering ranked 9th in the nation. The civil engineering program ranked 4th, and the environmental and ecological engineering program ranked 13th. The new statewide engineering transfer program will begin this fall.

"We are pleased that our partners at Purdue continue to recognize the excellence of Ivy Tech's curriculum and instruction."

—Dr. Todd Roswarski



"This agreement is a milestone in providing transfer opportunities for our students," says Dr. Todd Roswarski, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs at Ivy Tech's Lafayette campus. "Pre-engineering graduates who qualify for transfer will be able to continue their studies at one of the top engineering schools in the nation and worldwide. We are pleased that our partners at Purdue continue to recognize the excellence of Ivy Tech's curriculum and instruction."

Ivy Tech offers the associate of science in pre-engineering at seven of its 32 campuses statewide, including Indianapolis, Lafayette, South Bend, Warsaw, Fort Wayne, Valparaiso, and Evansville. Through the program, students can explore a variety of engineering fields and receive a strong foundation in science and mathematics. More information about the program is available at [IvyTech.edu/pre-engineering](http://IvyTech.edu/pre-engineering).



# IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE LAUDED AS **"ONE OF THE BEST IN THE COUNTRY"** BY PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

*Students enjoy "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity*

Ivy Tech Community College was honored to host President Barack Obama in a town hall-style event. In his remarks, the President focused on reasons to be optimistic about the future: the improving economy, robust private-sector job growth, rising wages, and lower college dropout rates.

The President also applauded Ivy Tech for setting the standard for community colleges nationally.

"Right here," the President said, "at this school—one of the best in the country—you're finding ways to raise graduation rates and partner with businesses to help provide apprenticeships and other pathways to careers that pay well."

One of the highlights of the President's visit was his interaction with students. Their comments reflect what a historic day this was for the College—and what an exciting future lies ahead for Ivy Tech and its students.



*"Ivy Tech is finding ways to raise graduation rates and partner with businesses to help provide apprenticeships and other pathways to careers that pay well."*

—President Barack Obama



"I will carry this memory throughout my life. This experience has made me believe everything is possible if you just try harder than you are expected to. President Obama is my idol, and I couldn't thank him enough for giving me a reason and chance to get a higher education!"

—*Dulce Santiago, Liberal Arts, ASAP*

"Hearing President Obama speak was educational and exciting. Being able to share the event with the President, Richard Lugar, and Andre Carson was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me. Thank you to Ivy Tech and faculty for putting in the time and effort to make it possible for history to be made."

—*Gabrielle Cob, Event Management*

"I was in the audience for President Barack Obama's Town Hall, and I got to shake the President's hand. Most people I know, regardless of age, never get that opportunity. It never would have happened if not for Ivy Tech."

—*Ragan Ratcliff, Associate Accelerated Program (ASAP) student*

"It was an honor to be in the presence of President Obama! This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I am blessed to have been selected to participate. President Obama's speech and answers to audience questions were inspiring and gave me hope."

—*Josette' Robinson-Luster, Liberal Arts*

"The presidential speech was so memorable. I got the chance to sit behind him, such an honor. His proposal on free community college for two years is a great idea for those who couldn't finish their education and want a better opportunity. Thank you, Ivy Tech, for this great opportunity. Who said community college wasn't a good thing?"

—*Marlene Aguilar, Liberal Arts, ASAP*

"Being able to sit in the same room with President Obama was such an amazing experience... I feel privileged to have been given the opportunity to be part of a history-making moment."

—*Tammi Polk, Baking and Pastry Arts*

"Seeing President Obama was a life-changing experience for me. Sometimes we focus more on what is going to benefit us rather than what is going to help our future generation succeed. President Obama is willing to invest in our future for a better tomorrow, and I am right there with him!"

—*Katelynn Howard, General Studies*

"It was a pleasant honor and privilege to be in the midst of such powerful leaders, and being that one of those leaders was the President of the United States made it a life-inspiring experience. Thank you, Ivy Tech, for your respect, leadership tools, and your capacity to evolve into an even greater campus."

—*Jameaka Wright, Human Services*

"I am thrilled to have been selected to represent Ivy Tech for the President's visit. I am glad I was able to raise concerns that my peers have about books and advising, and that the intent of the (free community college) plan is not to raise taxes to pay for it."

—*Christopher Bowen, Accounting Major, President, Student Government Association, Central Region*





## THREE TIMES THREE

Young women graduate from high school, college, and YWCA program

High school graduation is one of the most exciting times in a young person's life. Multiply that milestone by three for a trio of Evansville teens, who not only will collect a diploma this spring from Benjamin Bosse High School, but will also complete the dual credit program with Ivy Tech Southwest and graduate from a mentoring program offered by the Evansville YWCA.

The three young women—half-sisters Taylor and MacKenzie Copeland and Bridjunnie Garnett—participate in a YWCA program called “Live Y’ers” that serves girls in grades 3-12 at three Title 1 schools in Evansville. Many participants face obstacles in their home life and other circumstances that make it difficult for them to finish their education. Starting in sixth grade they are paired with mentors who maintain a long-term one-on-one relationship with the girls, helping them with social skills, self-esteem, goal-setting, and behavior management.

“So many girls don’t make it through the first two years of college,” says Courtney Edwards, Youth Program director at the Evansville YWCA. “They have so many struggles, and they don’t know how to ask for assistance if they’re failing.”

That’s where Ivy Tech’s dual credit program can help, says Rene Hankins, Ivy Tech’s Executive Director of Outreach.

“High school students learn that they do have the skills to complete a college-level class, and this gives them the confidence to pursue more after high school,” Hankins explains. “The courses are rigorous and the expectations are high, but completing it within a comfortable setting can make all the difference when deciding whether or not to attend college after high school.”

Taylor Copeland appreciates the cost savings of the dual credit program.

“We’re basically taking the same classes as we would in college,” she says, “plus we’re saving money and time so we’ll have two years done.”

Taylor plans to major in nursing at Indiana State University, then earn a master’s and become a neonatal nurse practitioner.

MacKenzie Copeland, who will attend the University of Indianapolis where she plans to major in psychology and sociology, echoes her half-sister’s sentiments. She encourages her peers to tackle the dual credit program.

“They might think they have to be really smart or have money,” she says, “but they don’t.”

Those concerns aren’t uncommon, says Hankins.

“People would be surprised to learn that it’s free and that the credits earned toward a student’s general studies transfer to any state university or college,” she explains. “Students can earn up to 40 credit hours; it depends on what’s offered at the school. We have a lot of first-generation students in the program. Their parents know the hardships of raising them and they want something more for their kids. But parents often don’t have the knowledge of how to help them get to college, so that’s where a community college can do more one-on-one support.”

The three teens are now eligible to apply for scholarships, which provide funds for college expenses beyond tuition, such as transportation costs. YWCA staff will continue to offer support while they’re in college, and the girls will still meet with their mentors.

“I’m excited that these three young ladies are already halfway through their college career,” says the YWCA’s Edwards. “I really think they’ll be successful because they’ve already overcome the hurdle of the first two years.”



Bridjunnie Garnett



Taylor Copeland



MacKenzie Copeland

## DREAMING BIG

American Honors program provides the opportunity to transfer to elite colleges

Imagine you’re an ambitious high school student intent on attending a four-year college or university. But you’re not certain you have the skills you need to succeed and the tuition costs seem out of reach. That’s where the Ivy Tech Community College American Honors program comes in.

American Honors is an associate degree program designed for highly motivated students whose goal is to transfer to leading colleges and universities. Currently offered at six Ivy Tech campuses—East Chicago, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Lafayette, South Bend, and Valparaiso—the program prepares students for junior- and senior-level coursework at some of the nation’s most rigorous colleges. Just as important, it provides support via an advisor who offers one-on-one guidance on course requirements, the transfer process and career options.

Honors courses are a combination of online and small, seminar-style classes, with all classes led by selected honors faculty. Students have leadership opportunities on the honors council and find like-minded friends in the diverse American Honors community.

Alma Corado graduated from Ivy Tech in May, completing American Honors with an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts. She says applying for the American Honors program was one of the best decisions she’s made.

“The online platform provided by American Honors provides flexibility that classrooms can’t,” Corado says. “It is a true virtual experience. Think of it like a ‘Skype-in class.’ Your professor leads discussion and you have a variety of options to choose from to interact.”

She credits her professors and her advisor, Klara Markus, with motivating her to excel. As a result, Corado gained the confidence and perseverance to pursue her dream of becoming a psychologist.

“I have grown as a student and person,” she says. “I feel more confident in my abilities and I look forward to what fall 2015 will bring. I am more positive and feel like I have a whole community in my corner.”

Corado has applied to Georgetown University, Smith College, and other schools, where she will continue her studies.

Nathan Hodge, another American Honors graduate, says the program taught him “to dream big and push myself farther than I thought I could go.” The inexpensive cost and proximity of the Lafayette campus to his home were the primary motivating factors, and he found the online format helpful because it saved him a 35-minute drive to campus. And, like Corado, he received a lot of personal help and encouragement from his advisor and enjoyed interacting with his peers.

“The best benefit of the program is the community and the help from the honors advisor,” he explains. “I am personally involved with the honors council at my campus and help plan events such as game nights for the honors students.”

Hodge, who graduated in May with an Associate of Science in Liberal Arts, hopes to study biochemistry and eventually go into research. He applied to MIT, the University of Michigan, the University of Chicago, and Stanford, among other schools.

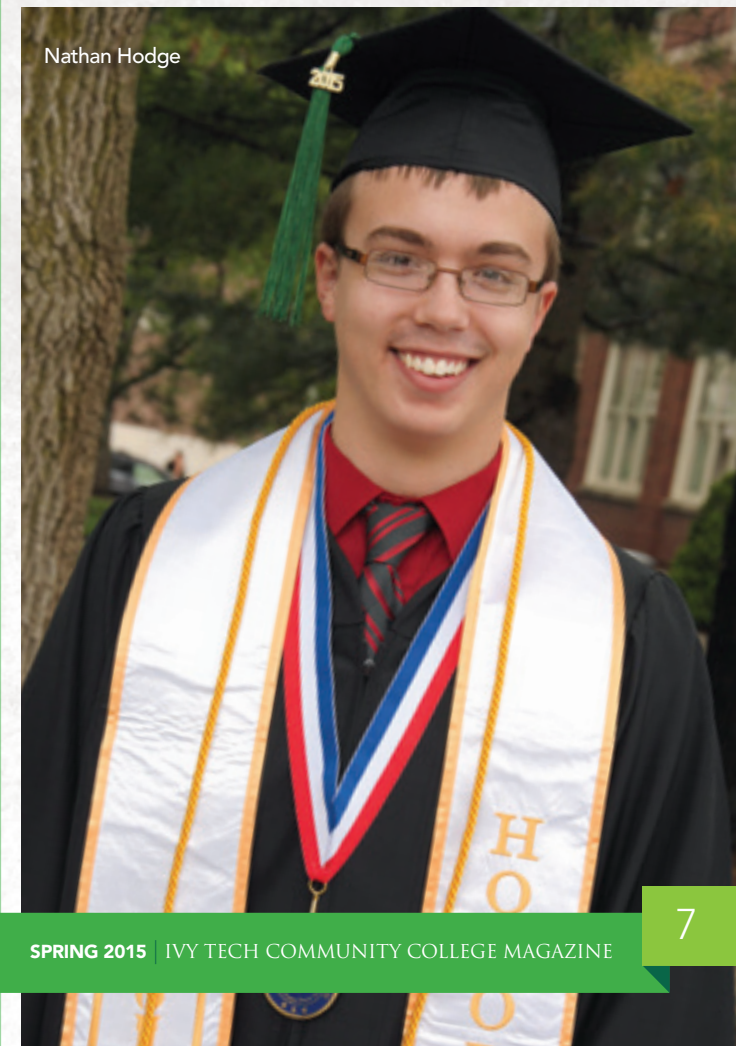
The lesson Hodge appreciates most from the program is learning “to take risks, expand my horizon, and to really live out the motto: ‘If your dreams don’t scare you, they’re not big enough.’”

**Nathan and Alma are Ivy Tech. Are you?**

Share your story on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter with the hashtag #IAmIvyTech. We look forward to hearing from you!



Alma Corado



Nathan Hodge



## KING FOR A DAY—TWO DAYS, ACTUALLY

Disabilities are no match for Ivy Tech Community College graduate

While every Ivy Tech Community College graduate has a story to tell, two things make Bruce King unique. First, he is deaf. If it seems like that would make attending college a challenge, consider another way in which King stands out: this is the second time he's earned a degree from Ivy Tech, after first graduating 10 years ago.

King credits his Grandpa Woody with inspiring him from an early age to want to pursue a career in construction technology. The two were working on a project that required removing an unwanted load-bearing wall between the dining and living rooms. His grandfather showed him how to install a header, and King's interest in the field was born.

When it came time to think about college, King considered National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, N.Y., but it did not offer the electrical engineering or construction technology programs. He chose Ivy Tech instead, graduating in 2005 with an associate of applied science degree in general studies.

Between 2005 and 2015 King taught himself construction skills by working on houses for family and friends. But he didn't forget his goal of improving his career prospects by earning a degree in construction technology. He took classes when he could fit them in at Ivy Tech campuses in Bloomington, Westville, and Muncie.

"I find it cool that I can get educated by Ivy Tech nearly anywhere in the state of Indiana," King says.

King says Lois Weiss in Ivy Tech's office of Disability Support Services (DSS) helped him find the resources he needed to succeed. Also, at Shafer Library on the Muncie campus, King found helpful staff, talked with instructors, and learned how to interact with

classmates, sometimes with an interpreter. He retained the services of note takers for his heavy lecture classes, since he can't take notes and watch an interpreter at the same time.

"All my Ivy Tech instructors, counselors, staffs, tutors, and class students were helpful to me," he says. "They were all wonderful people that I easily interacted with. I hear fairly well with my hearing aids, and hearing aids help make lip-reading easy. That helped me overcome the challenges I faced as a deaf student at Ivy Tech."

King urges other students with impaired hearing to "use all the opportunities available to them, such as interpreters, note takers, and maybe hearing aids. Also, make friends with students and talk to instructors when needed."

In his free time King enjoys DIY home remodeling projects, landscaping, repairing vehicles, and tackling other handyman tasks. His post-graduation plans include restoring a circa 1890s house in Oakland, Calif., this summer, then continuing to renovate other houses in Ohio and elsewhere.

Ten years after receiving his first Ivy Tech degree, King has succeeded in earning the degree he first dreamed of while working alongside his grandfather. And in doing so, he serves as an example of how barriers are made to be overcome.

### Bruce is Ivy Tech. Are you?

Share your story on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter with the hashtag #IAmIvyTech. We look forward to hearing from you!



"I find it cool that I can get educated by Ivy Tech nearly anywhere in the state of Indiana."

—Bruce King



## INTO THE LIGHT

Stacy Walker finds her way back—with her sister's support

Stacy Walker has had some incredibly dark days.

After dropping out of high school, her drug use escalated from marijuana to LSD and cocaine—and later, methamphetamine. One day in 2002, after being awake for nine days straight, she went for a drive as far and as fast as she could and finally reached a point where she could no longer hide from her demons. It became clear that the time had come to make a change in her life.

"I knew that my bad decisions were not based on who I was, but what I was on," she says. "That day, I decided to get clean and I have never looked back."

She has been drug-free and sober for 12 years, outrunning the mistakes of her past to chase her dreams of a better life.

Walker's first step in reclaiming her life was to earn a GED and apply to Ivy Tech Community College. She knew the day she was accepted at Ivy Tech was a defining moment, and she became driven to earn her degree.

Walker says the unfailing support of her friends and family, especially her sister Lee Ann Brown—also an Ivy Tech student—was crucial in her recovery and academic success.

"My sister has been my biggest fan and encourager," she says.

Brown says she has always assumed a maternal role with her younger sister, especially after their mother died of lung cancer in 2013. Brown never lost hope that her sister would pull through and she made sure she was there for her.

"I knew Stacy would straighten out her life on her own timeline," Brown says. "I had faith in her, even when she didn't have it in herself. She has been an inspiration. In her drive to finish school, she hasn't let anything get in the way of accomplishing her goal."

Walker maintained a 3.66 GPA at Ivy Tech and graduated with an associate degree in liberal arts. She plans to transfer her credits and pursue a bachelor's degree in communications. Her goal is to become a motivational speaker.

"I want to help others avoid the path that I took," she says. "If I could help one person find their way back, it would make it all worthwhile."

Brown will graduate alongside her sister with an associate degree in general studies. She aspires to be a secondary education history teacher. While this will be Brown's second time going through a graduation ceremony, it will be Walker's first and it was important to both of them to graduate together in a show of solidarity.

"I can show her how proud I am of her and how much I support her in the absence of our mother," says Brown. "She might not know it, but I have always believed she could do anything."

### Stacy is Ivy Tech. Are you?

Share your story on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter with the hashtag #IAmIvyTech. We look forward to hearing from you!

"If I could help one person find their way back, it would make it all worthwhile."

—Stacy Walker



Stacy Walker with her sister, Lee Ann Brown





*“Working at a global company like GE would be a great networking opportunity and help me stay on course with aviation and everything I’m looking for in my career.”*

—Satya Sunkavalli



## THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

*Graduate Satya Sunkavalli's career is cleared for takeoff*

When you work in aviation, you know getting a flight from its point of origin to a destination isn't always easy, and obstacles are the norm, not a rarity. What matters most is how well prepared you are to respond to those obstacles.

Maybe that's why Satya Sunkavalli is such a great fit for the industry. Her journey toward a degree hasn't always been easy, but now she's ready to take flight.

Sunkavalli, a native of India, came to the United States on a student visa in late 2010 with the intent to earn a pilot certification. She enrolled in a flight program at another institution in Indiana, but personal obstacles prevented her from completing her studies. She transferred to a comparable flight program in Florida with the hope of finishing, but despite a solid performance on the verbal portion of her test, she did not pass the flight portion.

“I was so discouraged and disappointed with myself,” Sunkavalli says. “But there are always challenges in life. You just can't give up. Doing something a little different after this was a great way to regain my confidence.”

With that renewed spirit, she placed her pilot-training goal on hold and enrolled at Ivy Tech Community College to study aviation from a mechanical perspective.

Aviation Maintenance Technology instructor Brad Stark has taught Sunkavalli in four of his classes, with course content ranging from aircraft fuel systems to sheet metal fabrication.

“Satya strives to do her best at everything she does, and she tries to help the other students,” Stark says.

Sunkavalli's achievements go beyond the classroom. She's an advisor for the Aviation Explorer Post 2035 and the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles Youth Program, both based at Smith Field in Fort Wayne. Sunkavalli also takes pride in her association with the local chapter of The Ninety-Nines, an international organization of women pilots founded by 99 licensed women pilots in 1929. Aviation icon Amelia Earhart served as the group's first president. And most recently she was named a 2015 Newman Civic Fellow, an honor given to inspiring college student leaders who demonstrate an investment in finding solutions for challenges in their community.

Sunkavalli says she wants to become a certified pilot and also be among the first to apply for work at GE Aviation's new \$100 million, next-generation jet engine assembly facility being built in Lafayette, Ind. Now that she has her degree, she's cleared for takeoff.

“Working at a global company like GE would be a great networking opportunity and help me stay on course with aviation and everything I'm looking for in my career,” Sunkavalli says.

### Satya is Ivy Tech. Are you?

Share your story on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter with the hashtag #IAmIvyTech. We look forward to hearing from you!

## A COLLEGE DEGREE IN LESS THAN A YEAR

*Southwest region's inaugural class of ASAP students graduate*

Laura Green and Brandon Vessels started taking classes at Ivy Tech Community College in June 2014. Less than a year later, they graduated with associate degrees in liberal arts, thanks to Ivy Tech's Associate Accelerated Program (ASAP). Green and Vessels are part of the inaugural Ivy Tech Southwest ASAP class.

ASAP provides Ivy Tech students like Green and Vessels the opportunity to earn a degree and begin their career in one year or transfer their credits to a four-year college to continue their education. Both students plan to pursue bachelor's degrees—Green in art education and Vessels in psychology. They both agree that while the program was rigorous and challenging, they're glad they participated.

“Although stressful at times, the ASAP program was definitely worth it because I'll be able to finish my education faster and start my career sooner, and I can't wait to do that,” says Green.

Vessels agrees that earning a degree in half the time definitely made the program worthwhile.

“ASAP has allowed me to really blossom personally and academically,” he says.

As Green and Vessels can attest, ASAP is a rigorous program. Students are encouraged to think of college as a job. In addition to obtaining knowledge and hands-on experience in an academic program, students learn other skills critically important to employers, like time management and teamwork. Students remain with the same group throughout the program, which allows them to share successes and overcome challenges together.

Green, who plans to transfer to the University of Southern Indiana, says the ASAP

program helped prepare her for life at a four-year university.

“Being in a fast-paced class helped me stay on top of my homework,” says Green. “When I move on to USI, I'm definitely going to miss the structure that came with the ASAP program, but I am better prepared thanks to the skills I developed in ASAP, including studying, note taking, and communicating with my professors.”

While in high school, Vessels earned about 56 credits from Ivy Tech, but he didn't know what he wanted to do after graduation. He says ASAP was the answer he was looking for.

“This program gave me an opportunity to take classes that would give me a much broader perspective and allow me to have more options moving forward,” says Vessels. “ASAP is very challenging, but if you work hard and apply yourself, this program can only be a positive experience. I took challenging courses with instructors who genuinely love what they do, and truly want you to succeed.”

Like Vessels, Green credits her instructors with helping her succeed.

“The best part about ASAP for me was the teachers,” says Green. “They were all very caring and almost like a friend. They all cared about what was happening in their students' lives and wanted to be there for us.”

Both students agree that if given the choice, they would go the ASAP route again.

“Now that I've been through ASAP, I don't feel afraid to move on to a bigger school,” says Green. “Before the ASAP program, I never would have thought I could earn A's every semester, but now I know I can. I would definitely recommend this program to others.”

Laura Green and Brandon Vessels





*“I have accessibility to professors rather than being in a lecture hall with 300 other students. My professors know me by name and have a clear idea of my career path and what I want to do.”*

—Ashley Chew



Ivy Tech student, model, and artist Ashley Chew recently participated in Fashion Week Miami Beach.



## A PASSION FOR ART AND FASHION

*From the studio to the runway, Ashley Chew enjoys life in the spotlight*

Fine arts student Ashley Chew considers herself very much a “work in progress.” She admits, however, that she’s had a creative streak for as long as she can remember. Her mom encouraged her with art supplies for birthdays and Christmas. Her grandmother, also an artist, guided her efforts and shared mistakes so Chew could learn from them.

Chew moved with her parents and four younger siblings to Indianapolis when she was young. After graduating from high school, she studied costume design at Kent State University in Ohio before deciding to return home and enroll at Ivy Tech Community College.

At Ivy Tech, “I feel like a student, not a number,” says Chew. “I have accessibility to professors rather than being in a lecture hall with 300 other students. My professors know me by name and have a clear idea of my career path and what I want to do.” She also finds it easier to make friends and connections with other nontraditional students who, like her, are juggling classes, work and other responsibilities.

One of Chew’s responsibilities is her commitment to art, which has resulted in several accolades. In 2013 RAW Indianapolis named Chew the Visual Artist of the Year, and in March her work was on display at the Madame Walker Theatre in a solo exhibition of 20 paintings in conjunction with Women’s History Month. She was stunned when more than 100 people showed up on opening night. In addition to selling six paintings, she received a commission for a large piece, and the Indianapolis Art Center asked her to show her work there this summer.

Chew credits her Ivy Tech fine arts instructor, Stephanie Robertson, for nurturing her talents.

“I know she’s hard on me to get the best out of me. Her voice is in the back of my head when I’m showing, labeling, or hanging paintings. Being in her class—even though she is tough as nails—is teaching me how to be more professional.”

In addition to her artwork, Chew has a passion for fashion design, inspired in part through her silk-screening classes at Ivy Tech. She has interned at an Indianapolis boutique and at FUNKSHION: Fashion Week Miami Beach, where she helped check in guests and handle backstage logistics in exchange for tickets to the shows. Her dream is to one day attend fashion school in New York City. She moved closer to that goal last year when she had the opportunity to work alongside professional designers and stylists and walk the runway in a show for Italian designer Antonio Urzi for FTL Moda.

Chew admits there’s no way she could balance her competing responsibilities without the skills she has learned at Ivy Tech.

“Ivy Tech has taught me so much about time management, organization, discipline, and setting priorities,” she says. “I’ve also learned the importance of making sacrifices for my education.”

This summer Chew will participate in an artist’s residency program in East London, South Africa. She is on track to complete her degree in fine arts this coming fall. As to what comes afterward, she says, “My life is always throwing me for crazy loops every time I try to plan. If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans.”

### **Ashley is Ivy Tech. Are you?**

Share your story on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter with the hashtag **#IAmIvyTech**. We look forward to hearing from you!

## CULTIVATING SUCCESS

*Graduate Desiree Steinkamp Earns Prestigious American FFA Degree*

When Desiree Steinkamp received the prestigious American FFA Degree at the organization’s national convention—an honor bestowed upon less than one percent of its members—she had a fitting metaphor in mind, given her career path. It was simply a case of seeds being planted long ago yielding a bumper crop.

“My grandpa always said you’re going to need three things in life: a doctor, a lawyer, and a preacher. But three times a day, everyone needs a farmer,” she remembers with a smile. “Farming has always been highly valuable to me, especially due to the impact it has on so many lives.”

Steinkamp grew up on what she calls a “decently-sized” horse and cattle operation in southern Indiana. She focused on sports through junior high, but an injury in her freshman year left her sidelined. Looking for another way to stay active, she found a natural fit with her high school’s FFA (formerly Future Farmers of America) group. She credits this organization for helping her blossom and find her calling to be a leader in the agricultural industry—a dream she chose to pursue at Ivy Tech Community College.

“When I graduated high school, I had a lot of options,” says Steinkamp. “I’m very close with my family, and to know I could stay near them while going to college was one of the outstanding features of Ivy Tech. The faculty and advisors also reached out to me before I ever even started there, and that welcoming feel really won me over.”

Steinkamp chose an associate in applied science for agribusiness, citing the hands-on applications with soil science, crop management, and livestock. She became heavily involved with the Columbus campus chapter of Agricultural Ambassadors. She says her role as president of the group combined with Ivy Tech’s programs have led to invaluable connections.

“I’ve actually made friendships with my professors. Friends of mine go to big-name colleges studying the same thing I am with a very similar curriculum, but they are sitting in lecture halls of upwards of 250 students. I’m sitting in a class of 25,” Steinkamp says. “The professors care about those personal relationships; they know what we are doing inside and outside of the classroom. They will be my mentors for the rest of my life.”

Steinkamp has her sights set on transferring to Trine University’s Columbus campus to obtain a bachelor’s degree in applied management. The end goal, she says, is a job in agricultural sales or marketing. But no matter what career she finds herself in, she won’t forget the encouragement from her friends, family, and professors to pursue her passion.

“I plan on staying close to home and maintaining my relationship with Ivy Tech and my community,” she says. “Both have given me so much support over the years, I can’t imagine myself not being involved in some way, cultivating the same passion for agriculture I have in future students. It’s a critical time for young people to get involved in the various aspects of farming to create sustainable, safe agriculture systems to put food on our families’ tables.”

### **Desiree is Ivy Tech. Are you?**

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*“I’m very close with my family, and to know I could stay near them while going to college was one of the outstanding features of Ivy Tech.”*

—Desiree Steinkamp





**IVY TECH REMAINS TOP CHOICE OF BOTH HIGH SCHOOL GRADS AND ADULT LEARNERS**

Ivy Tech Community College is once again the most popular higher-education destination for both high school graduates and adult learners. According to a study by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE), 2013 Indiana public high school graduates who chose to attend college enrolled at Ivy Tech by a two to one margin over any other public institution of higher education in Indiana. In addition, 83 percent of Indiana's adult students—defined as those who enrolled in College but not immediately following their high school graduation—chose Ivy Tech.

**IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH HBCUs**

Ivy Tech Community College has announced an initiative designed to foster increased diversity among its faculty while providing jobs for recent master's-level graduates from some of the nation's top historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). The program, to be named the Sam H. Jones Faculty Fellows Program in honor of late Indianapolis Urban League President and Chief Executive Officer Sam H. Jones, will establish formal working relationships with chosen HBCUs. Ivy Tech will recruit graduates of the partner HBCUs' master's programs for faculty positions. The program focuses on the College's three largest regions with sizable minority populations: Northwest, North Central, and Central Indiana.

**LOTTERY, IVY TECH OFFER FREE FINANCIAL LITERACY COURSE**

The Hoosier Lottery and Ivy Tech Community College are launching a first-of-its-kind partnership to provide a free resource to adult Hoosiers who want to improve their financial skills. The open online course is initially being promoted to Hoosier Lottery winners and Ivy Tech students statewide, but it is available to any adult in Indiana at LearnFinancialLiteracy.com. Topics are designed to help participants make educated financial decisions, including reading a credit report, making wise investments, planning a budget, tips for buying a car, picking a mortgage, and choosing the right financial institution for their needs.

**PILOT PROGRAM POSITIONS STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS**

*College Coaches connect high schoolers to their future*

While high school is the source of a lot of great memories, it isn't all fun and games—especially as students approach graduation and try to decide what's next. Teachers, counselors, and administrators offer excellent support, but sometimes assistance from an outside source is welcome, too. That's where Ivy Tech's College Connection Coach program comes in. Rene Hankins, Ivy Tech Community College Executive Director of Outreach, says the program is designed to help students succeed long-term.

"Ivy Tech's goal is to increase the college attainment rate in the state of Indiana by partnering with schools for early college programming and helping students transition to the next step after high school," says Hankins.

Ivy Tech's Southwest and Wabash Valley regions are closing in on the successful completion of a pilot program. Hankins says the two regions have four coaches who split their time between 10 high schools. Coaches are available to help guidance counselors in the schools with a variety of tasks. Among other things, they can help:

- Configure pathways for students
- Meet with parents and students about post-secondary options
- Help students transfer their dual credits to the college program of their choice

Carrie Feltis is among the inaugural group of College Connection Coaches. She's spent this school year working with more than 100 students—most of them seniors—at Harrison High School and Central High School in the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation.

"As a first-generation college student, I deeply appreciate the value of education and training beyond high school," says Feltis. "I am familiar with the struggles some students and their families encounter when trying to evaluate and navigate their post-secondary options. In my role, I hope to make the next steps feel achievable for them, ultimately increasing the college attainment rate for our students."

Feltis says one of her favorite things about being a College Connection Coach is seeing students evolve from being moderately interested in what's in store after high school to actively learning, asking questions, doing research, and displaying a sense of ownership over their future.

She works closely with the school district she serves to ensure that her goals align with theirs—supporting career exploration and career pathway development and helping students recognize and pursue options available to them after high school graduation.

"These professionals are so passionate about what they do," she says. "It's inspiring to work with them."

One of those professionals is Dwight Ashley, the principal of Rockville Junior-Senior High School. Ashley says he appreciates the opportunity to partner with Ivy Tech.

"The College Connection Coach program allows us to go above and beyond in college support for our students," says Ashley. "High school guidance counselors do a great job, but they have many other tasks, especially in smaller schools. Having a College Connection Coach available to work with students to track and develop their progress toward dual credit and other goals is critical."

Ultimately, Feltis says, those involved in the program all have the same objective: to help students reach their potential while also helping employers in the community thrive.

"The ultimate goal is to see more students progress from high school to higher education and training," she says, "and ultimately, to help meet the state's need for a skilled and educated workforce."

*"Having a College Connection Coach available to work with students to track and develop their progress toward dual credit and other goals is critical."*

—Dwight Ashley



*"Ivy Tech has opened so many doors for me. I have met so many wonderful people, both students and teachers, who have given me great advice."*

—Justin Barnes



**CARTOON GUY DRAWS INSPIRATION FROM CHILDREN**

*Justin Barnes explores his passion at Ivy Tech*

Growing up, Ivy Tech Community College student Justin Barnes had a wild imagination that led to a fascination with cartoons and movies. When he was in high school he was given the opportunity to work with cartoonist Gary Barker, long-time assistant to *Garfield* creator Jim Davis.

Barnes took what he learned from Barker and turned his dreams into reality. He started his own company, Cartoon Express, which teaches children how to create and design their own cartoons and comics. After much encouragement from his students, he decided to take his lessons to the airwaves with a television show he writes, animates, and produces.

The *Cartoon Guy* debuted on WFYI in Indianapolis. Barnes, who is also a substitute teacher, says the goal of the show is to inspire and encourage children to grow their minds and imaginations.

Barnes isn't just an accomplished cartoonist; he's also a dual major student at Ivy Tech Central Indiana, working toward a degree in education. Ivy Tech faculty member Ken Marshall says he's been impressed with Barnes from the start.

"Justin is a very talented student," Marshall says. "He's the creator, producer, artist, and star of this great children's show, all while pursuing his education."

Barnes admits that he isn't a typical college student. As he explains, other priorities took precedence after he graduated from high school.

"I got a late start on my college career, which goes to show it is never too late to go back to school," he says. "I went into the workforce right out of high school, got married, and had kids soon after."

However, Barnes says he's glad he's been able to pursue his passion—thanks in large part to Ivy Tech. After graduating from Ivy Tech next year, Barnes plans to continue his education and obtain his bachelor's degree in education and master's in art therapy.

"Ivy Tech has opened so many doors for me," he explains. "I have met so many wonderful people, both students and teachers, who have given me great advice. I am always encouraged to keep on doing what I am doing and to never give up."

**Justin is Ivy Tech. Are you?**

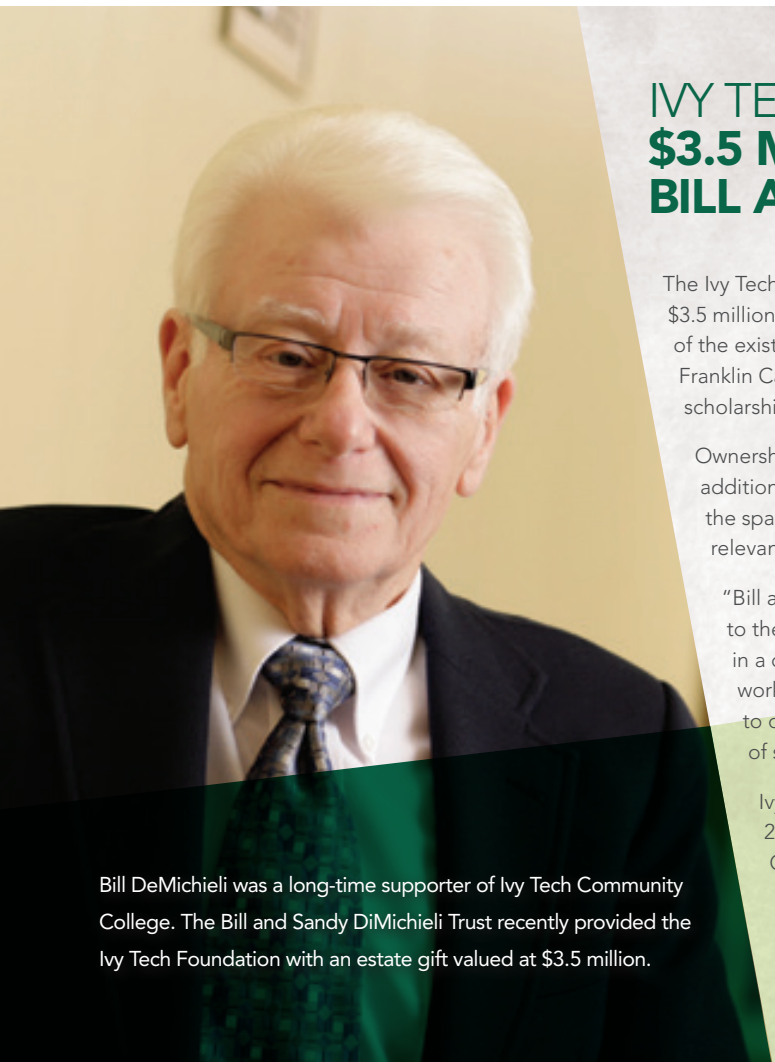
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Bill DeMichieli was a long-time supporter of Ivy Tech Community College. The Bill and Sandy DiMichieli Trust recently provided the Ivy Tech Foundation with an estate gift valued at \$3.5 million.

## IVY TECH FOUNDATION RECEIVES **\$3.5 MILLION GIFT FROM BILL AND SANDY DiMICHIELI TRUST**

The Ivy Tech Community College Foundation has received an estate gift valued at \$3.5 million from the Bill and Sandy DeMichieli Trust. This gift gives Ivy Tech full ownership of the existing William and Sandy DeMichieli Learning Center that houses the Ivy Tech Franklin Campus, and provides additional funds designated for programming and scholarships in health sciences.

Ownership of the building gives Ivy Tech access to another 9,000 square feet for additional classrooms and labs. The estate funds will allow the College to add some of the space and equipment necessary to add health sciences courses, as well as other relevant offerings for local employers in the future.

“Bill and Sandy were both visionary people and wanted to find a way to give back to their community. They saw the value in providing higher education opportunities in a community,” says Dr. Kathy Lee, Chancellor for Ivy Tech Central Indiana. “They worked hard to provide for their families and wanted to provide those opportunities to other citizens in their own community. Their generosity will be felt by thousands of students over many years to come.”

Ivy Tech began leasing the building from Bill, a 30-year resident of Franklin, in 2008 when increased demand for more classes in the Franklin area allowed the College to pursue a larger space. The first lease and renovation provided 12,000 square feet of classroom, lab, and office space. The demand for more classes allowed Ivy Tech to quickly lease and build another 9,000 square feet. Ivy Tech has delivered classes to thousands of students at the Franklin Campus.