

Early Childhood Education Degree Approved for Ivy Tech



Marjie Risen, Program Chair for Early Childhood Education, (left) actively recruiting faculty at the Faculty Recruitment Fair. (See more about the Recruitment Fair on the next page.)

At its June 13, 2003 meeting, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education granted Ivy Tech State College-Bloomington permission to offer Technical Certificates and Associate of Applied Science degrees in Early Childhood Education (ECE). Until approval is received from Indiana's Commission for Higher Education for any program, an educational institution may offer up to 50% of the courses that would be offered in that program. This has been the case with the ECE program.

Over the past few years, the ECE program has offered a Generalist Specialty that comprised 50% online learning and 50% classroom instruction. The Commission of Higher Education's approval now allows the campus to offer a land-based technical certificate program and a two-year associate of applied science degree in Early Childhood Education. The campus will now offer one-on-one classroom instruction in all courses required for the Generalist Specialty.

CHE approval also opens the doors for the addition of three new specialties. These new specialties include a Curriculum specialty, an Administrative specialty, and an Infant/Toddler specialty. Sixty-six credit hours are required to complete the two-year degree and thirty hours are required for the one-year technical certificate.

Although many campuses in the Ivy Tech system offer online courses in early childhood education, CHE approval will allow Ivy Tech-Bloomington to develop its own inventory of online classes. In short, CHE approval will help a program that has already been very successful, grow even faster. "We have doubled our enrollment in Early Childhood Education since the program started here in 1998", says Marjie Risen, the ECE program chair at Ivy Tech-Bloomington. "And now that we can offer more specialties and online classes, we expect our enrollment to increase exponentially".

Currently, Ivy Tech State College-Bloomington has several articulation agreements in place that would allow Early Childhood Education graduates to transfer to four-year universities, including Ball State, Indiana State, IUPUI and St. Mary-of-the-Woods. But the Bloomington campus is working with several other universities to increase that number, including Indiana University Bloomington.

"We are looking forward to establishing a working relationship with IU's School of Education, so that our students will better be able to plan their future", says Marjie Risen, the ECE program chair at Ivy Tech. "The Commission's approval will accelerate reaching an articulation agreement, and this, we believe, will benefit our students, IU, and the community".

Gerardo Gonzalez, the Dean of the School of Education at IU, agrees: "There is a great need for highly qualified early childhood education professional teachers", he says. "An effective articulation agreement

should lead to increased opportunities for participation and completion of appropriate degrees by a well prepared, more diverse population of students. Such an outcome will serve our community well."

For the past five years, Ivy Tech has taken on the role of preparing early childhood educators for the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential—a nationally recognized competency-based credential for child care providers widely recognized by Head Start, day care centers, nursery schools, and resource and referral agencies. It is also a requirement for any person seeking a daycare home license in Indiana. Ivy Tech is the sole provider of this preparation class in south central Indiana, and offers training for the certificate at several off-campus sites and has plans for two-way video classes in the future. Since the program started, 79 students have received their CDA certificate through the Ivy Tech program, and 25 more will be eligible in January of next year. All past recipients of the CDA certificate through Ivy Tech-Bloomington were recognized at the annual Teacher Recognition banquet in April. Hosted by Ivy Tech and sponsored by the south central chapter of the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (IAEYC), the banquet brought together 150 childcare experts from south central Indiana, including home daycare providers, center employees, church and private facility staffs, and Head Start and campus child care directors and staff. Patty Brown, an Ivy Tech contributor and retired teacher, was honored by having the Early Childhood Education Suite named for her, and Mary Ann Gac from Parents Day Out was recognized with the Dorothy Johnson Teacher of the year award.

To find out more information about ECE classes offered, call Marjie Risen at (812) 330-6109 (email mrisen@ivytech.edu) or visit the Ivy Tech State College-Bloomington Web site.

Ivy Tech and YMCA Youth Program A Great Success!

For three weeks in June the average age of students attending classes at Ivy Tech State College-Bloomington dropped dramatically. Through its office of Corporate and Continuing Education, Ivy Tech State College-Bloomington teamed up with the Monroe County YMCA to bring three different one-week camps to area junior high students. By all accounts the full-day "College for Kids" camp, which ran Monday through Friday from June 9-27, was a huge success.

"College for Kids exceeded our own high expectations", says Janet Wingard, the coordinator of the College for Kids program. "Everybody involved in the program—kids, parents, instructors—had a rewarding experience". In total, eighty-six students attended the summer 2003 session. From 8:30 to 11:30 am, students attended morning classes at Ivy Tech, and then they were taken by bus to the Monroe County YMCA for a variety of teamwork and leadership training activities.

So why were so many sixth, seventh and eighth graders willing to attend classes in the summer? Because these were not your typical junior high classes. Course titles included: Definitely Digital, Fiction & Fantasy, Ham it Up!, Model Rocketry, Teen Cuisine, Theatrics to Hat Tricks, Design Fun With SolidWorks, Forensic Science, Medical Mania, Wonder of the Web, Creative Kid Chronicles, and Radical Robots.

Each course combined instruction with hands-on experience. In the Model Rocketry class, for example, students built and launched their own rockets, and in the Radical Robots class, students created robots that competed in a "great robot run-off". Local health care experts from Bloomington Hospital taught students attending Medical Mania about the human vascular, respiratory, and skeletal systems, and then gave them an opportunity to intubate a manikin, while the Fiction and Fantasy students compiled a booklet of their poems, stories, songs and group screenplay.

Instructors teaching these courses were astonished at how captivated the students were by the material and how quickly they learned. "The students were very actively engaged and

were also already very educated about a lot of our forensic investigative techniques", says Gary M. Dunn, whose Forensic Science class gave students a chance to dust for fingerprints and taught them theories and techniques related to crime scene investigation. "All of the instructors were amazed at how creative the students were", adds Gerry Masse who walked students through the creation of personalized CD covers and the design of individual Web pages while teaching Definitely Digital. "They were far more adept at learning computer applications than many of the adult students I work with. I just had to give them an overview of the programs and they were off and running".

If the students spent the morning exercising their minds, they spent their afternoons exercising their bodies. "The kids really liked being able to attend the classes at Ivy Tech in the morning and have some physical activity at the YMCA in the afternoon", says Shelley Sallee, the Youth Family Camp Director at the YMCA. "Our motto is to establish programs that create a healthy mind, body and spirit, and College for Kids did just that". Two of the most popular activities were using a climbing wall supplied by local climbing facility, Hoosier Heights, and swimming at Bryan Park Pool.

Although this was only its second year, the College for Kids program is here to stay. "In addition to our partnership with the YMCA, we have also received great support from other community partners, including the Monroe County Community School Corporation, Bloomington Hospital & Healthcare System, the Bloomington Cooking School, and Cinergy Corporation", says Jim Heinzen, the Executive Director of Corporate & Continuing Education Services at Ivy Tech. "We want to build on the success that we've had by pursuing additional partnerships for future camps".

A future goal of the College for Kids program is to find ways to increase parental involvement. With that in mind, there are plans to incorporate a Show and Share activity into next year's program in which students will demonstrate the skills and knowledge they learned during camp to their parents and/or grandparents. While College for Kids participants are preparing for the Show and Share activity, parents will meet concurrently to learn about effective parenting, communicating, volunteering, learning at home, decision

making, and collaborating with the community to increase the educational success for their child at school.

But even without these additions the program is very popular with both parents and students. "I was very impressed with the entire program", says Donna Fromm, whose daughter Callan participated in the camp. "They offered a great variety of classes to the students, and the instructors that I came in contact with were engaging. I felt that Ivy Tech put the same effort into these classes for kids as they do for their classes for college-age students".



The 2003 College for Kids participants take time to pose for a picture after a full morning of classes at Ivy Tech State College-Bloomington!

Ivy Tech in the Community



Pictured above are Chancellor John Whikehart (left) and Kevin White (right), president of Crestmont's Resident Council.

The Crestmont community participated in the National Night Out program, a crime and drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. The community threw a block party, allowing residents and law enforcement personnel the opportunity to learn more about each other. An entourage from Ivy Tech supported the event.

Cutting Edge Healthcare

After a series of quick clicks and double-clicks on a computer in a nursing lab at Ivy Tech's new building on Thursday, May 29 at 1 pm, Ivy Tech State College-Bloomington and Bloomington Hospital and Health Care System were connected electronically, bringing 21st century training techniques to the greater Bloomington community for the first time.

"It's like we just located our Ivy Tech Nursing Computer Lab inside Bloomington Hospital. Nursing students now have easier and expanded access to the hospital technology they are learning", states Ben Ackerman, Director of Computer Services at Ivy Tech. The connection gives Ivy Tech Nursing faculty as well as nursing students access to hospital technology that enables students to learn in a simulated hospital environment. Says Vera Cline, program chair for Ivy Tech's two-year nursing program: "This new simulated system is going to help Ivy Tech produce even better prepared nurses and allows us to make more effective use of faculty, student and hospital staff time".

"We have been working toward this moment for well over five years now, and are delighted to put into practice technology that began being used in some hospitals only seven or eight years ago", says Kay Leach, Health Science Division Chair.

Bloomington Hospital moved to an electronic form of charting about two years ago, a system that cuts down on paperwork and makes information infinitely more accessible to hospital staff and doctors who need it. The new technology at Ivy Tech enables nursing students to learn this new charting system. But nursing students are not the only ones who will benefit from training on this system: Bloomington Hospital employees are also being introduced to the charting system using this new simulated method. Blocks of time were scheduled through the summer and fall semesters to allow both Ivy Tech and Hospital training to occur.

Ivy Tech has a dedicated nursing computer lab where this training will take place. In addition, it has four laptops mounted on walkaroos that will be used in the Ivy Tech nursing labs. Both Ivy Tech and Bloomington Hospital contributed to the purchase of the laptops and walkaroos to make this portable option, often used in the hospital setting, a reality.

This technology is also a first for the Ivy Tech system. Says Chancellor John Whikehart: "This is another opportunity for the Bloomington campus to be a trail blazer. Kudos to our nursing faculty for having foresight and vision to integrate new technologies into their teaching methods. We also commend our healthcare partner, Bloomington Hospital, for taking these bold steps forward with us."

Reflections!



*Debbie Daggy,
Accounting Graduate*



*James Gaddis,
CIS Graduate*

Although students attending Ivy Tech State College-Bloomington come from a wide variety of backgrounds, they are unified by the desire to improve their lives through education. After graduating last May, honor students Debbie Daggy and James Gaddis reflect on their experiences at Ivy Tech and look ahead to the future.

Before majoring in Accounting at Ivy Tech, Daggy worked in Bloomington-area factories for fifteen years. A grandmother of six, Daggy still found time for her school work, and with the help of Ivy Tech's Office of Career Services, she was able to find a job in her career field immediately after graduating. Her experiences at Ivy Tech have also given her the confidence to think about pursuing a bachelor's degree. "I cannot express how proud I am that I accomplished my goals", she says. In addition to the accounting and bookkeeping skills she acquired, Daggy considers the computer skills she learned at Ivy Tech to be essential in today's job market.

James Gaddis, who graduated with an AAS degree in Computer Information Systems, also is optimistic about using his education to fulfill his personal and occupational aspirations. "I hope to be able to provide a better life for myself and for my family", he says. While Gaddis is interested in finding a computer-related occupation, his passion for reading and teaching the Bible motivates him to seek a theology degree. Gaddis strongly encourages individuals of all backgrounds to explore the program curricula at Ivy Tech State College-Bloomington. "If you have the opportunity or would like to challenge yourself to reach your maximum potential, then take a few classes on campus", he suggests. "You will be hooked, and you will open areas of yourself that even you didn't know existed".

Both Daggy and Gaddis describe how their education has been influenced by the resourcefulness and genuine concern displayed by Ivy Tech faculty. Although Gaddis confesses that he got the "heebie-jeebies" whenever he had to deliver a speech in class, he says that his Public Speaking instructor, David Cochran, helped him overcome his fears. Along with improving his oratory skills, Gaddis says that Ivy Tech instructors have helped him realize the value of perseverance.

Similarly, James Smith—former Accounting Chair and newly appointed Dean of Academic Affairs—has been a source of guidance for Daggy, giving her the confidence to follow through with her ambitions. "James Smith has not only been a teacher, but also my advisor", she says. "When I first came to Ivy Tech I wasn't sure I had what it took to return to school, but he assured me I would be fine. . . . I know that if I need advice in the future, he will point me in the right direction".

Nurses Pinned!

Thirty-four graduates of the practical nursing program at Ivy Tech in Bloomington were honored during a pinning ceremony on August 1, 2003 in the Student Commons of the Ivy Tech State College-Bloomington Campus. Cheered on by a crowd of almost 400, the graduates are now eligible to take a state exam to become licensed practical nurses.

The guest speaker for this auspicious occasion was Connie Ferguson, Chair of the Ivy Tech Region 14/Bloomington Board of Trustees, who provided the students with encouragement and inspiration. She also highlighted the importance and impact of completing a program and how the graduates provided a role model for others, especially for their family and friends.



Connie Ferguson

These students look forward to being able to apply their skills. If they haven't already secured jobs, they are in the process of applying for them. What this means for our communities, or the local economy, is that 34 new nurses are made available to the healthcare industry in south central Indiana to help shore up the ever present nursing shortage. The much needed licensed practical nurse (LPN) is an integral part of the health care team.

Ivy Tech's Practical Nursing program was developed in 1966 through the co-operative efforts of Bloomington Hospital, the public school system, and a grant from the Federal Government. Sponsorship was transferred to Ivy Tech State College in 1968. During this time, the program has graduated 1,890 students who typically fill nursing and allied health positions in Monroe and surrounding counties. The Practical Nursing program is accredited by both the Indiana State Board of Nursing and the National League of Nursing Accreditation Commission (NLNAC).

Faculty Recruitment Fair Draws A Crowd!



The Bloomington campus of Ivy Tech State College held its first Faculty Recruitment Fair on Friday, July 11, 2003, at their new campus at 200 Daniels Way. Well over eighty visitors, more than anticipated, presented their credentials as future Ivy Tech instructors. Ivy Tech human resources personnel and academic program chairs were kept busy interviewing well into the evening!

First Summer Sees Ivy Tech's Memory Garden Take Shape



Ron Dawson, Program Chair for Manufacturing and Industrial Technology at Ivy Tech State College-Bloomington, has been instrumental in the creation of Ivy Tech's Memory Garden, as well as other new flower gardens on the campus. A keen gardener, Ron decided that past and future should meet in the form of a fashionable flower garden once construction at the new Ivy Tech campus was complete. To this end, Ron collected plants and bulbs of flowers grown at the old Ivy Tech campus at Canterbury Court and brought them with him to the new campus. Part of the fun of building the Memory Garden was selecting the perfect spot for it (within view of his office!) and having his students participate in its construction. Pictured with Ron (seated) are two of his 15 students from the Basic Carpentry and Building Maintenance class of fall 2002, who helped with the garden's construction. They are Greg Middleton (right) and Richard Egles (left).