

Campus Connections

Higher Education Issues, Initiatives

By Matt L. Ottinger

Schools Partner in Supply Chain Management

Much has been written about P-16, taking students from preschool through college in a coordinated manner. The final four of those years often require partnerships of their own.

For example, the University of Indianapolis and Vincennes University have initiated a joint supply chain management transfer program that allows Vincennes' students to continue their studies at Indianapolis. According to Leslie Gardner, operations management and mathematics professor at the University of Indianapolis, the partnership is a timely one for students looking to gain access to a growing field.

"Transportation, distribution and logistics make up a segment of the economy that is actually growing in Indiana," she says of the sector, which has become a \$1 trillion industry in the United States. "Vincennes does very well at the two-year level, but we want to help students move on. This also gets those students up to Indianapolis where internships are popular and they can be exposed to businesses, and it gives us a pipeline from a two-year school."

Gardner notes that the supply chain curriculum allows the school to teach math in a practical way to the state's future workforce.

"Indiana needs a workforce pipeline of mathematically talented students who have some understanding of this field and the career opportunities it presents," she added in a press release announcing the program.

The program will be open to the top graduates in Vincennes' supply chain program, requiring that they earn an associate's degree and at least 12 hours of additional credit in courses such as statistics and managerial accounting.

This joint venture is unique in that it features a partnership between a four-year, private university and a two-year, public school.

"I'm from Vincennes, and I knew most of the faculty there," Gardner says. "It's definitely a teaching school where the faculty really cares about the students. We have a similar environment here, which helps make us compatible."

The University of Indianapolis has received a federal grant to help support its supply chain efforts, which includes various future plans. Among those are establishing dual credit courses for high school students and building more transfer opportunities with Ivy Tech Community College as well as other four-year schools.

Indianapolis also currently offers an MBA in global supply chain management.



The University of Indianapolis now welcomes students from Vincennes University who wish to continue studying supply chain management as part of a joint partnership between the two schools.

INFORMATION LINK

Resource: Leslie Gardner, University of Indianapolis, at www.uindy.edu

Indiana, Purdue Join Forces for Rural Students

For students and administrators at Indiana's rural high schools, providing college-level courses for their students is not always an easy task.

"A couple years ago, the Indiana Legislature mandated that schools offer advanced placement and dual credit courses," says Bruce Colston, assistant dean of program planning/high school director at Indiana University's School of Continuing Studies. "But in talking with some guidance counselors, we realized they were at a loss about how to meet this mandate. When you only have five students who need these courses, it's not fiscally feasible to hire a teacher."

The predicament soon beget opportunity for Indiana's largest state schools – Indiana and

Purdue universities – to join together and create the Indiana/Purdue Rural Schools Initiative. The joint project allows rural students to take online courses, with Indiana and Purdue offering three classes each.

“These are courses that some rural schools may not offer due to a lack of resources,” adds Michael Eddy, Purdue’s director of distance learning programs. “But if you can get a few kids from different schools together, you have enough for one class. We think distance learning is a tool to address this as a critical mass issue.”

The program launched during the spring 2009 semester, with Purdue offering courses in computer science, sociology and agronomy, while Indiana features geology, criminal justice and American history classes.

“Just for logistical reasons, we’re limiting each course to 15 students for this semester,” Colston notes. “We want to keep it small for now to make sure we can manage it. Enrollment is basically first-come, first-served, but we have contacted some targeted schools around the state.”

Each university has agreed to accept the other’s credits from these courses.

And according to Eddy, the online program will benefit both the students and the schools.

“We’ll definitely get something out of this, too,” he offers. “At Purdue, we like when students coming in have had some courses to get them accustomed to college level learning.”

The participating high schools will provide a designated onsite mentor who will act as a liaison between the student and the university. Eddy notes the mentors will likely be teachers or guidance counselors.

“The mentors will check on the students’ progress, and they will also proctor exams for us,” he explains.



Though they may be rivals on the basketball court, Indiana and Purdue universities are teaming up to bring college-level courses to some of the state’s rural high school students.

INFORMATION LINK

Resources: Bruce Colston, Indiana University, at (812) 855-7969 or <http://iuhighschool.iu.edu>

Michael Eddy, Purdue University, at (765) 494-4654 or www.purdue.edu

‘Thanks’ for the Visit; Please Admit Me

If you ever had any doubt that the college admission game is a competitive one for some, consider the following: a prospective Lehigh University student who sent M&M’s® in school colors with her name painted on them, asking officials to “keep me on the tip of your tongue when reviewing applications.”

Much of that *New York Times* story focused on the trend of high school students sending thank you notes to higher education personnel following campus visits. So what do admissions officers at Indiana’s colleges think about follow-ups and thank you notes? Have they seen an increase in recent years?

According to Donald Vos, dean of admissions at the University of Evansville, his counselors haven’t reported a recent influx of notes or cards. “I don’t think we’ve seen an increase of thank you notes, but we do frequently receive those.”

Chris Gage, associate director of admissions at Hanover College, has noticed an anecdotal increase, however, in thank yous and other communications in recent years.

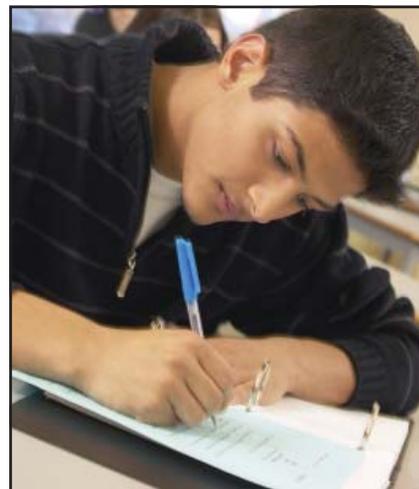
“It seems as though students are becoming more engaged in the admission process and are following up with someone on staff that they’ve met with,” he recalls. “We’re seeing more letters and postcards now.”

Gage believes the reasoning for this is likely the heightened level of competitiveness. He explains that 2008 featured the largest American high school graduating class in history with 3.31 million students.

“There’s a perceived level of competitiveness for these students to get into their first school of choice,” he notes. “Students see reports in the press about how it’s going to be competitive, so they want to make themselves stand out.”

In terms of communication methods, Gage believes that’s more dependent upon the particular school.

While admissions counselors at Indiana schools are grateful for follow-up notes and thank you cards from applicants, the act has little direct impact on acceptance.



“It depends on what the school utilizes,” he says. “For us, we have a good mix of using Facebook or e-mail, although I think e-mail is more for casual communication. We’re still pretty traditional in using letters and handwritten notes, so that tends to be what students use to follow up with. Some schools use texting or instant messaging, but we don’t use those.”

Vos says that students who can reference specific aspects of their trips will likely make more of an impact than a generic note.

“If a student can single out a specific experience and add detail, like ‘that student I met with who walked me to class was very helpful,’ that would probably mean more to the staff,” Vos explains.

All told, though, Vos believes thank you notes make a negligible impact in terms of determining whether a student gets into the school. But he does believe it may be an effective way to get the student thinking about making the correct decision for themselves.

“Our goal is to help the students make the right choice (of school) for them, although we appreciate getting both positive and negative feedback because it’s helpful,” he offers. “But if a student can say specifically what they like about our school and why it is important to them, it may end up aiding their decision-making so both the school and the student realize it will be a good fit.”

Gage concurs, explaining it allows the school to understand what the student really wants.

“It’s not a burden (to receive follow-up notes), and it’s actually quite nice to get a response,” he offers. “It really plays very little into the admission process as we still use academics as the main way to determine that. But it does give us a sense of the level of interest from the student, and it helps to build relationships.”

INFORMATION LINK

Resources: Chris Gage, Hanover College, at (812) 866-7028 or www.hanover.edu

Donald Vos, University of Evansville, at (812) 488-2624 or www.evansville.edu

How Many Students are Going to Which Campuses?

Indiana has experienced strong improvement in the number of students going to colleges and universities. Work is continuing in the area of completion – both in the total earning degrees and those doing so in a timely manner.

Included here is the public college and university enrollment, as reported by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. (Ivy Tech totals are on Page 38).

	Public Colleges and Universities	
	Fall 2008 Enrollment	
	2007-08 Total Headcount	2007-08 Total Headcount
Indiana University		Indiana State University 14,758
IU-Bloomington 46,464		University of Southern Indiana 12,117
IU-East 3,260		Ball State University 24,035
IU-Kokomo 3,848		Vincennes University
IU-Northwest 6,576		VU-Vincennes 14,636
IU-South Bend 10,069		VU-Jasper 1,651
IU-Southeast 8,378		VU-ATC 520
IUPUI 40,357		VU-Marion County 130
Indiana University Total 118,952		Vincennes University Total 16,937
Purdue University		
PU-West Lafayette 44,578		
PU-Calumet 12,148		
PU-North Central 4,797		
IUPU-Fort Wayne 15,057		
Purdue University Total 76,580		