



BUILDING A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

The pedestrian bridge over Crescent Avenue has taken shape! IPFW's "Bridge to the Future" will connect the IPFW campus with our student housing. The groundbreaking ceremony for the housing was in May and the official dedication took place Sept. 22. The bridge, which is 246 feet long, was designed by architect Kurt Heidenreich of Engineering Resources Inc. in Fort Wayne. The bridge's length required a center support, and a pylon with cables (the triangle structure) was designed for this purpose. Just one other bridge in the United States has a similar design. Construction of sidewalks and enclosures should be completed this summer. For an artist's rendition of the completed project, visit www.phyplt.ipfw.edu/Housing/housing.htm.

IDIS 110 FRESHMAN SUCCESS (Fall 2004)

What is it and why should an incoming freshman or returning adult take this 1 credit hour course? The freshman IDIS course teaches students the survival skills that will help them become successful students. Topics discussed include tips for successfully juggling school, work, and family responsibilities, time management, test taking, note taking, learning styles, study skills, and more. The course meets for the first eight weeks of the semester.

UPCOMING EVENTS

STARS Orientation
Thursday, Jan. 8, 2004

Financial Aid Workshop
"How to Complete the FAFSA and Issues Related to Financial Aid"
Thursday, Feb. 5, 2004, 6:30 p.m.
Walb Union, Room 222
Sponsored by IPFW Financial Aid

Students with Families Pizza Dinner/Workshop
Friday, Feb. 7, 2004
Workshop on wellness for adults

Activity for Kids
Laura Edmunds from Soarin' Hawk Association presenting the importance of wildlife

Financial Aid Workshop
"How to Complete the FAFSA and Issues Related to Financial Aid"
Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2004, 6:30 p.m.
Walb Union, Room 222
Sponsored by IPFW Financial Aid

Students with Families Pizza Dinner
(Last one of the year!)
Friday, April 16, 2004, Walb Union
Keystone the Clown: singer, songwriter, and comedian

Fall 2004 STARS Orientation
Thursday, Aug. 19, 2004

Classes for Fall 2004
Begin Monday, Aug. 23, 2004

Recent Events

Workshop on Financial Aid for Adults
Friday, Nov. 7, 2003

Activity for Kids
Experiments of the Mad Scientist

Student Groups Supported
by CWRA
EREN
Coalition for Social Justice



Pictured above: Michelle Hettinger Winner of the drawing at STARS orientation Fall 2003 (sweatshirt donated by Follett's IPFW Bookstore)

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Rapport

Winter 2004

IPFW Center for Women and Returning Adults

ADMINISTRATOR HIGHLIGHT: EDNA NEAL



Edna Neal is the vice chancellor for student affairs and was recently interviewed by Susie Renfrow, the center's secretary. Following is the interview:

How long have you been at IPFW?

My official beginning date was Sept. 17, 2001.

Where have you worked?

My professional career began at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. I moved to Ohio in 1969 and worked at Youngstown State University until 1979 when I went to Sinclair Community College.

What is your educational background, and have you always aspired to be a vice chancellor?

My educational background includes Ed.D., Indiana University; M.S., University of Arkansas; and B.A., University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. No, I have not always aspired to be a vice chancellor. My aspirations have always focused on working in positions so that I could influence the institutional policies and practices to ensure access, acceptance, and opportunity for all students.

What kind of advice would you give a recently admitted or any returning adult for that matter?

My experience has been that many returning adults and recently admitted students feel they are alone and sometimes

feel lost or intimidated by this new environment. It is for this reason that a lot of effort goes into preparing students through our orientation programs (STARS and SOAR). My advice is believe that there are others here perhaps with similar feelings so you are not alone. Believe that IPFW faculty and staff want you to succeed. Believe that we want to connect with you and support you. Claim IPFW as your own and be proud of the rich, topnotch academic experience you will have.

What is the most important thing to you in higher education?

For most students, higher education offers limitless opportunities for intellectual growth, personal development, career preparation, creative development, discovery, and advancement of knowledge.

Do you expect the campus atmosphere to change with the student housing here? If so, in what way do you see change occurring?

Yes, I believe we will see development of more social, recreational, and intramural sports activities. In addition, I believe we will see a greater blending of the academic experience with student housing.

What are the future trends in student affairs?

I believe that student affairs will be influenced by the utilization of technology to enhance the delivery of services to students. Student affairs will continue to play a key role to ensure students access. Trends at both state and national levels that higher education institutions be more accountable will affect the way we do our business.

STUDENT TALK

By Marie Breeding, recipient of the Adell M. White 2003 Scholarship

Beginning college as a nontraditional student has been a life-changing experience as well as a life-long dream come true. For many years I had been an aid in various elementary classrooms in Huntington County. Recently I found myself without a job and lack of funds. Following advice from friends, I took training to become a certified substitute teacher. Soon I was substituting several



I know the road ahead may be difficult, but I also know there are many people at IPFW who will encourage and help me reach my goal.

days a week, even accepting some long-term assignments. It brought me joy to watch how excited the children became as they learned something new. I had always dreamed of being a full-time teacher with my own classroom. Many times on the way home from school I would say a little prayer and ask God if he would help me get to college and earn a degree in education.

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A Publication of the Center for Women and Returning Adults at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

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I have two sons; one is a junior at IPFW, and the other is a senior in high school. Although I wanted to go to college, I felt it was more important for my sons to receive their college education. It was obvious to me that we were not financially able to meet the expenses of college for all of us. Still, my husband encouraged me to take the plunge, but I had questions. It had been 30 years since I graduated from high school, would I be able to successfully reach my goal? And where would we get the money?

The admissions office personnel at IPFW were very helpful in answering my questions. I was guided to Prof. Agnes. She showed me that the university is particularly supportive of returning adult students. She also directed me to the classes I needed and eased some of the apprehensions I had. My professors have been extremely helpful in guiding me in the right direction and encouraging me. I finished my first year on the Honor Roll and the Dean's List. I was elated.

I am in my second year as a full-time nontraditional student. I would not be able to attend without the financial aid I am

receiving. I am especially grateful to Robin Newman and Susie Renfrow at the Center for Women and Returning Adults. They have assisted me with locating available scholarships. At our first meeting, I could feel their enthusiasm and the passion they have for helping nontraditional students. I know the road ahead may be difficult, but I also know there are many people at IPFW who will encourage and help me reach my goal. I am extremely grateful to each one.



*Students with Families
Pizza Dinner
Friday, Sept. 26, 2003,
with Sponge Bob Square Pants*

OPEN LETTER TO INCOMING FRESHMEN

Oct. 17, 2003

Dear Nontraditional Freshman:

Congratulations and welcome! If you are reading this letter it can only mean you successfully overcame many hurdles to become a member of the freshman class at IPFW. I hope you will find the following suggestions helpful.

If you haven't attended the **STARS orientation program**, I highly recommend it. It is an evening of information geared toward the adult student. I also recommend the **Freshman Success**

class for adults. This class is packed with helpful hints, good study guides, orientation to various "help centers" on campus, and some very interesting guest speakers attuned with the struggles of the nontraditional student during the first year of classes.

First and foremost, keep in mind that you are not alone and that your instructors and the administration at IPFW want you to succeed. There are many adult students on campus and I would advise you to seek them out. In each class I took the first semester (and I had 13 credit hours) there was always at least one other adult classmate. Introduce yourself and exchange phone numbers — make the first move. Your classmate is probably just as nervous as you and will welcome the exchange.

Next, I suggest that you get familiar with the **Writing Center**, **Helmke Library**, and **Center for Academic Support and Advancement (CASA)**. All three offer introductory tours and will help you tremendously with course work in the most basic classes. If you don't get the basics, you will struggle the rest of your college life. Your student fees pay

for these services — please take advantage of them.

Two other offices that will be of great help are **Academic Counseling and Career Services (ACCS)** and the **Center for Women and Returning Adults (CWRA)**. Do not be fooled by the name "Center for Women" — the office offers services to all students. I don't think there is a question these offices can't answer, and

if you do come up with one, they will work diligently to find an answer. Again, YOU are the reason these offices exist — please take advantage of them.

This next suggestion may be a little harder to fit into your schedule, but you will benefit greatly if you can manage it. **Attend the seminars** that are offered on test taking, note taking, reading with a purpose, PowerPoint presentations, e-mail accounts, and the list goes on. You can pick up a schedule of the workshops from the offices of ACCS and CWRA. If you are enrolled in a **Freshman Success class**, a lot of these topics will be touched upon, but the workshops reinforce the information and most often add to it. I didn't find any of the ones I attended to be redundant.

Right now I'm sure the phrase "information overload" is swimming in your brain, but you will be surprised at how quickly everything comes together.

Now, just a few fundamental points concerning classes. If you don't treat your **classmates** as children, they won't treat you as parents! Sounds simple enough, but be careful, this is an easy mistake to make in first few weeks, and once a pattern is established it is hard to change.

One thing that caught me off guard is

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the many different kinds of **instructors** at IPFW (and most other colleges). Some are professors, some are graduate students, some are administrative staff, and some are professional community members. Do not be alarmed that you are in college and possibly are not being taught by a professor. I have found all my instructors to be very knowledgeable of the subject they are teaching.

To be successful in any class, follow your **syllabus**. Keep it with you and refer to it daily. With a busy life that possibly includes family obligations, work schedules, and other course work, it will be easy to get discombobulated. The syllabus will contain your instructor's name and contact information, his/her office hours, the outline of the course, homework assignments and due dates, test dates, class rules, and the grading scale.

Another important tool is your **organizer or planner**. IPFW makes these available to all students, free of charge, at the beginning of each fall semester. It is important to keep not only your school schedule but also your personal schedule in one spot so you won't miss an important date, meeting, or class deadline.

These are the things I found to be most helpful in beginning my college path. If you can find just one hint helpful to you, then I hope you will

If you don't treat your fellow classmates as children, they won't treat you as parents!

pass it along to others. Don't sweat the big or little stuff. Just do your best and seek help before you need it. I wish you much success.

Once again, congratulations and welcome!

Sincerely,

Kim Campbell