Project: **Further Develop Cooperative Programs with Ivy Tech**

Start Date: 1 Aug 2012

Client: Ivy Tech Students

Program Manager: Ms. Cindy Otts/Dr. Robert English

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Thesis Statement: We can increase the number of students coming to Indiana State University (ISU) from Ivy Tech Community College, and we can increase the number of students who persevere through graduation.

Introduction/Background

This initiative includes increased enrollment and success of transfer students, primarily from Ivy Tech but also from other two-year institutions in the state and region. Ivy Tech moving to 60 hours from 64 and ISU moving to 120 hours from 124 achieves updating degree articulation between Ivy Tech and ISU. Furthermore, the initiative includes: 1) improving recruitment and communication procedures; 2) providing greater alignment of academic programs to include additional Bachelor of Science (BS) programs and Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) programs; and 3) improving second-year retention and graduation rates for new fall transfer students who are full-time bachelor's degree seekers. There is speculation that the enrollments at Ivy Tech will decrease, rather than increase, over the next few years (non-traditional students).

Proposal/Purpose/Justification – Why?

- To increase transfer enrollments.
- To improve the competitiveness of scholarships.
- To improve the viability of academic programs.
- To improve the course and degree articulations between institutions (60 hours, 120 hours).

- To build a strong relationship with Ivy Tech.
- To provide additional academic programs (BS and BAS).
- To improve second-year retention and graduation rates for new fall transfer student (full-time bachelors' degree seekers).

Work Plan/Action Steps/Process – How?

Increase the number of scholarships: ISU has experienced a great deal of positive publicity due to our increased emphasis on offering scholarships. Last year, we offered $35,000 in transfer scholarships and leveraged this with laptop computers. In addition, we offered $10,000 in scholarship funds to Vincennes University. At this point, we believe that the scholarship program will be successful, but the outcome will not be definitive until the start of school. Typically, we have a large number of transfer students come in August. The June 15 report stated 729 "Confirmed" transfer students coming to ISU. We need to provide supplementary scholarships to attract additional Ivy Tech Students to enroll at ISU.

Improve the viability of academic programs: The majority of the Ivy Tech programs are Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.). Dr. Ken Brauchle, Dean of Extended Learning, and the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE) are supportive of offering a BAS at ISU. Dr. Marion Schaffer is leading a small team in the development of paperwork that will facilitate ISU offering a BAS program this academic year. Professor Esther Acree of the Nursing program is starting to investigate the BAS as an option.

Enhance efforts targeting retention of transfer students: A primary tactic will be identifying students who are "at risk". This population fails to take advantage of opportunities for mentoring and is deficient in attendance, prior academic performance, engagement in major, math preparation and time management issues. The behavior of at-risk students will be monitored and intervention methods will be utilized. Two student workers and a part time person (Mr. David Sivley) will be managing this initiative. MAP-Works assessment tool will be utilized and particular focus will be on 3-week attendance. Early detection of problems is crucial.

Reporting/Deliverable Schedule – When?

Data regarding the status of communication, visits to administration, retention intervention productivity, number of sites visited, status of the progress of academic program development,

articulation agreement updates, increase in students enrolled at ISU, retention statistics, and the general health of the initiative will be provided each semester.

Budget – How Much?

Scholarships - $50,000

Retention/graduation rates - $25,000

Visit to Ivy Tech and miscellaneous expenses - $4,000

Total - $79,000

NOTE: Presently, this account has a balance of about $86,000. Approximately $50,000 of this money is allotted for scholarships that will be disbursed in AY13. Our current request of $50,000 for scholarships is money that will be spent in AY14.

Stakeholders/Management Plan – Who?

Members of the Team: Dr. Robert English, Ms. Cindy Otts, Dr. Bruce McLaren, Mr. Ron Payne, Mrs. Melissa Hughes, and Prof. Esther Acree

Advisory Team Members: Ms. Samantha Penney, Mr. David Sivley, Dr. Rob Jeffs, and Prof. Carrie McCammon

Advisory team members are necessary to address specific strategic components. Ms. Samantha Penney helps us align with what the university is doing in the area of distance education. Mr. David Sivley, Dr. Rob Jeffs, and Prof. Carrie McCammon are a part of the Ivy Tech team designed to combat the math deficiency/student retention concerns. Dr. Jeffs and Prof. McCammon are a part of Ivy Tech's central administration team guiding Ivy Tech on math remediation as well. Mr. Sivley is a faculty member at Ivy Tech who has a background in managing math remediation. This part of the team will be overseeing the operation processes and achievement levels.

Outcome Assessment/Future Testing – How Well?

This year we will be establishing new avenues and optimizing current methods of enhancing retention and graduation rates. We must identify the students who are most in need of help, we must collect data on what we are doing, and we must use the data to determine which methods to use and ways of improving the processes.