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Ivy Tech Community College launches new training program in supply chain management and logistics

INDIANAPOLIS—Ivy Tech Community College is launching IvyWorks, a new program that will train students for a career in supply chain management and logistics in just two years. A $120,000 gift from JPMorgan Chase Foundation will help launch the program this August. IvyWorks is tailored to fit the needs of working students and their employers.

"Helping people develop the skills they need to compete for today's jobs can transform lives and strengthen economies," said Al Smith, chairman of Indiana for JPMorgan Chase. "The IvyWorks program aligns with our goal of developing the talent of today with skills for tomorrow to keep Indiana vibrant and growing."

IvyWorks is a job-centered degree program that aims to help students find gainful employment and/or develop the skills for advancement upon completion of their degree. The program offers an Associate of Science degree in supply chain management and logistics, which is a leading industry in Indiana. The curriculum was designed in collaboration with industry leaders from Conexus Indiana, a private-sector led initiative focused on the advanced manufacturing and logistics fields. With the projection of more than 5,000 manufacturing positions in central Indiana within the next year and a 20 percent growth in logistics employment over the next five years, this program is prepared to help students become leaders in the workforce.

"The mission of IvyWorks is to help bridge the skills gap by providing industry-specific training to assist those looking for employment," said Ivy Tech Central Indiana Chancellor Kathleen Lee. "We are also partnering with industry leaders to provide intentional, strategic professional development so that those already working in these fields are better prepared for upward mobility and leadership."

Ivy Tech hired Kate Aguilar to run the program. Before joining Ivy Tech, Aguilar worked as an educator with Teach for America in St. Louis and Manchester Community College in Manchester, Conn. She earned her master's degree in African American studies from Indiana University and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in African American studies and history at the University of Connecticut.

"This program is so exciting because it meets students where they are *and* gives them the tools and support system to get to where they want to be," said Aguilar. "We recognize that there are other programs that focus on Supply Chain Management and Logistics, but we are unique in that we offer the most affordable avenue and cohort-based learning so that students can network with each other while learning from leaders in these fields."

The IvyWorks program is modeled after the successful Associate Accelerated Program (ASAP) at Ivy Tech, which provides an associate degree in one year. The cohort-based ASAP has proven

success rates, with 69 percent of students earning a degree in a year and 98 percent persisting to earn their bachelor's degree or a second associate degree after one year. Cohort-based learning encourages timely completion and assists with networking among future members and with the business community. Professional development is a critical piece of IvyWorks that will help with group cohesion and make students most competitive to thrive in the workforce.

IvyWorks offers both face-to-face and online coursework, making the curriculum accessible to students across the state. Standard Ivy Tech tuition rates apply, but IvyWorks staff is working to make the degree more accessible through online open-resource textbooks, efforts to secure employer contributions, and assistance with the FAFSA and other federal and state funding. Interested candidates can contact Kate Aguilar at kaguilar5@ivytech.edu, or 317-921-4327.

Ivy Tech Community College is the state's largest public postsecondary institution and the nation's largest singly accredited statewide community college system. Ivy Tech has campuses throughout Indiana. It serves as the state's engine of workforce development, offering affordable degree programs and training that are aligned with the needs of its community, along with courses and programs that transfer to other colleges and universities in Indiana. It is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association.