IU Kokomo partners with communities for a stronger, more vital region.
We’re doing BIG, BOLD THINGS on campus every day and it’s a wonderful time for you to get involved in your own way.”

This academic year, we are celebrating a big milestone at Indiana University Kokomo: 75 years as the choice for higher education in our region. As I look back on where it all began in 1945, I think of all the determined, dynamic, and unique students who have walked through our doors – whether at the Seiberling Mansion or our campus on Washington Street – and then gone out to change their corner of the world. Including you!

For decades, we’ve seen our alumni become our teachers, doctors, nurses, artists, writers, businesspeople, leaders, lawyers, and legacy leavers. And we don’t take that lightly. We’ve been celebrating our 75th Anniversary and all that those years mean to us, our alumni, and our community.

A huge part of the success of IU Kokomo is the important partnerships we’ve developed since the very start. From healthcare to economic development to K-12 initiatives, we have relationships with people with the ability to create change across our region. Donors partner with us and trust our vision for all this institution can be. And, you, our alumni, partner with us to voice your thoughts, attend events, and stay connected with your alma mater. All of these relationships contribute to the success of this campus and to the communities we serve.

We’re doing big, bold things on campus every day and it’s a wonderful time for you to get involved in your own way. Whether you attend a celebratory event, visit campus to hear a dynamic world-class speaker, cheer on the Cougars at a sporting event, or swing by for a cup of coffee in our new coffeehouse, the Ground Up Café, we’d love to see you around.

Please follow us on the social media platform of your choice to stay up-to-date as we move forward into the next 75 years! We hope to see you at an event or hear from you!

Sincerely,

Susan Sciame-Giesecke, Ph.D.
Chancellor
Indiana University Kokomo
As you’re reading this magazine, know that we consider you a valued partner to Indiana University Kokomo.

Whether you’re a proud alumnus, a supportive friend of the university, or a generous donor, it is your partnership that makes what we do possible. As the name of our alumni magazine indicates, our goal is to leave a legacy – for our students, our community, and the world. In this issue, we take a moment to reflect on the partnerships between our beloved institution and the community. From health care to K-12 initiatives to economic development, it is our honor to partner with you – wherever you are – to truly make a difference.

As you’re reading this edition and learning about the ways the community has allowed us to play a role in growth and advancement of our region, maybe an idea will spark for you. A way to connect with our campus. A partnership in a new area we hadn’t thought of yet. That’s the goal. As we reflect on our longstanding relationships and new, budding partnerships across the 14-county region in which we serve, we’re always striving to find more ways to impact people and places around us. But, we can’t do it without you. Wherever you are in the community, we value your ideas and connections. Partner with us and help us continue to improve the lives and development of our communities.

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Communications Specialist
Danielle Rush

Videographer
Mike Glassburn

Photographer
Austin Mariasy

For media inquiries contact:
mktng@iuk.edu
HAPPY

Holidays

MY FELLOW ALUMNI

Campus has been abuzz with students and all things 75th Anniversary for the fall semester, and we are continuing this through the spring.

The major 75th anniversary celebration honors many of you, our alumni. In our last issue, we identified several Legacy Families of IU Kokomo. We defined Legacy Families as families who have two or more graduates within an immediate family, spouses who met and graduated from IU Kokomo, multiple siblings within a family, and parents who have graduated and have students currently attending IU Kokomo. Since that issue hit your mailboxes and was put on our alumni social media channels, we identified even more Legacy Families. Thank you!

We want to honor you by hosting a Legacy Family Dinner to take place on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 in the Kelley Student Center, room 130. We hope you’ll join us as we recognize you for being an intricate piece of the fabric that makes up IU Kokomo. It’s not too late to be included as a Legacy Family. If you feel your family meets the criteria listed above, email me at alumni@iuk.edu by February 10, 2020 so we can add your family to the list and invite you to the dinner. If you’ve gotten married, moved, changed emails, please send me those updates so you can receive your special invitation to the dinner.

I’m looking forward to seeing many of you at the Legacy Dinner and honoring you through a new tradition at IU Kokomo.

For the Glory of IU,

Benjamin Liechty, B.A. ’06
Director of Alumni Relations and Campus Ceremonies

Benjamin Liechty and Senior Hannah Bourne, winner of Indiana University Distinguished Alumni Service Award scholarship
Foooooreeee!

It was a beautiful day for the annual golf outing on Wednesday, September 11. Nearly 100 golfers teed off the 75th Anniversary of Indiana University Kokomo at this annual event.

Coaches and players from the men’s basketball, and women’s tennis, soccer, and volleyball teams attended the outing to greet golfers and share updates about their teams.

A special congratulations goes out to the winning team of Jason Banach, Charles Northrop, Jeffrey Kaden, and John Perszyk, representing the IU Bloomington Real Estate Office and the Jackrabbits. Second place finishers were the team of Mike Morgan, Linda Morgan, Tom Lane, and Brandi Jones.

First Farmers Bank & Trust was the presenting sponsor, and Rozzi’s Catering donated lunch. Brad Howell Ford was the hole-in-one sponsor.

A special thanks goes out to all of our sponsors, including:

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From the beginning as the Kokomo Junior College, with only three students in the first graduating class, to the bustling campus and staple institution of higher education, Indiana University Kokomo has always believed in dreaming big and taking bold steps to support the limitless future of its students.

Explore this timeline to learn more about significant people, places, and events that have shaped IU Kokomo from the very start.

View the entire timeline at 75years.iuk.edu/our-history

1932
**NEW BEGINNINGS**
Kokomo Junior College begins offering a two-year collegiate program, laying the foundation for Indiana University’s presence in Kokomo.

1945
**IU ESTABLISHES EXTENSION CENTER**
In 1945, Indiana University establishes an extension center in the former Kokomo Junior College building at 508 W. Taylor Street. Dr. Virgil Hunt serves as the Center’s first director.

1947
**SOARING ENROLLMENT AND EXPANDING FACILITIES**
Due to climbing enrollment at the Taylor Street location, the university purchases the Seiberling Kingston mansion at 1200 West Sycamore Street to expand its facilities.

1952
**FREEING UP SPACE**
With increasing enrollment, the neighboring Elliott House is bought and the neighboring Elliott House is moved to this new space allows for more classrooms in the Seiberling building.

1956-1959
**NEW LEADERSHIP**
Dr. Smith Higgins is appointed IU Kokomo Director. A Navy veteran who taught mathematics, Dr. Higgins was a champion for IU regional campuses.
1959-1979
NEW LEADERSHIP
Dr. Victor M. Bogli
chancellor. His fundraising and
strategic vision set the stage for IU Kokomo’s future.

1960
CAMPAIGN STOP
Then-Senator John F. Kennedy stops by the Kokomo campus while
campaigning, greeting students, and signing autographs.

1965
IU KOKOMO’S NEW CAMPUS
IU Kokomo moves to the new 57-acre South Washington Street campus.
A number of summer courses are offered despite continuing construction,
and the fall semester marks the official opening of the new campus.

1970
IU KOKOMO’S FIRST COMMENCEMENT
Associate degrees in nursing and radiological technology, as well as
bachelor’s degrees in education, are awarded at IU Kokomo’s first
commencement.

1980
EAST BUILDING OPENS
This building now houses the Nursing Simulation Lab and Division of Allied Health Sciences.

1980-1990
NEW LEADERSHIP
Dr. Hugh L. Thompson is appointed chancellor. He helped lay the groundwork for expansion at IU Kokomo, doubling the amount of land in Kokomo owned by the university and constructing new buildings to meet the needs of present and future students.

1985
OBSERVATORY OPENS
The Observatory opens with a 96-seat lecture hall. Today, in addition to providing space for research and classes, the Observatory hosts special events and free open houses for the campus and community.

1991-1999
NEW LEADERSHIP
Dr. Emita B. Hill is appointed chancellor. In addition to her investment in the IU Kokomo campus as chancellor, Dr. Hill also founded the Emita B. Hill Scholarship to aid students in their international studies.

We’re commemorating our campus’ 75th anniversary in a big way!
Join us as we celebrate you and the legacy of our wonderful campus.

APR 7
LEGACY DINNER
We hope you’ll join us as we recognize you for being an intricate piece of the fabric that makes up IU Kokomo.

SPRING 20
CARRIAGE HOUSE THEATER REUNION
We’d love to bring members of the Carriage House Theater together for a fun reunion. Keep your eyes peeled for more details to come.
1989
KELLEY STUDENT CENTER OPENS
The building and attached classroom wing provide offices, classrooms, student lounges, a cafeteria, a child-care center, and a campus bookstore.

1999-203
NEW LEADERSHIP
Dr. Ruth J. as Chancellor received an honorary degree from IU in recognition of her significant accomplishments.

1995
NEW LIBRARY OPENS
The new building includes the 200-seat Kresge Auditorium and the Art Gallery. The Library Building is connected to the Kelley Student Center by Alumni Hall, a hub of campus activity.

2000
HUNT HALL OPENS
A state-of-the-art science facility opens, offering classrooms, laboratories, and offices for faculty and administration.

2001
LET’S GO COUGARS!
I U Kokomo chooses the Cougar as its new mascot in a campuswide election. Later, in 2011, students would name the fixture at campus and athletic events Kingston Cougar.

2003
IU KOKOMO JOINS NAIA
IU Kokomo is approved for full membership in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) conference, paving the way for more robust athletic teams and activities on campus.

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2003
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2008
NEW LEADERSHIP
Dr. Ruth J. as Chancellor received an honorary degree from IU in recognition of her significant accomplishments.

2010-2012
NEW LEADERSHIP
Michael Harris is installed as Chancellor of IU Kokomo.

2012
IU KOKOMO JOINS NAIA
IU Kokomo is approved for full membership in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) conference, paving the way for more robust athletic teams and activities on campus.

2013
COMMITMENT TO WELLNESS & FITNESS
The 21,000-square-foot Milt and Jean Cole Family Wellness and Fitness Center opens thanks to a $1.25 million grant from the Cole family.

2014-PRESENT
NEW LEADERSHIP
After 37 years on campus, Dr. Susan Sciame-Giesecke becomes chancellor of IU Kokomo. Dr. Sciame-Giesecke holds a Ph.D. in Speech Communication from Indiana University.

2015
IU Kokomo joins the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) conference, paving the way for more robust athletic teams and activities on campus.

2018
BREAKING GROUND
The IU Kokomo community celebrates the ceremonial groundbreaking for the new Student Activities and Events Center. The Center will serve as a venue for campus events and activities, as well as the home for Cougar athletic teams.

Looking for ways to celebrate the 75th Anniversary? Visit us at 75years.iuk.edu for all the latest info.
LEGACY FAMILY DINNER

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Formal invitation coming early 2020. Identify your family legacy by emailing alumni@iu.edu.

Keep an eye out for the Bicentennial Bus!

Now through August 2020, Indiana University’s traveling exhibit, All for You, will be touring Indiana, bringing the IU Bicentennial to all of the state’s 92 counties. Chancellor Susan Sciame-Giesecke will be on board to visit every community in our 14-county region.

This interactive exhibit explores IU’s impact on the state. The exhibit features content from each campus in various mediums, including virtual reality, 3D prints, physical objects from IU’s collections, videos, and historic images. Don’t miss this big red bus when it visits your community!
Dallas Snell,  
B.S. ’19,  
is a police officer for the Frankfort Police Department.

Kholoud Alharbi,  
M.S.N. ’17,  
has been accepted into a Ph.D. program for nursing.

Fawaz Alorief,  
M.B.A. ’17,  
is an administrative specialist for the Shura Council, which is the parliament of Saudi Arabia.

Nouf AlFares,  
M.B.A. ’16,  
is an entrepreneur selection and growth manager at Endeavor.

Khalifa Kulaiban,  
M.B.A. ’15,  
is a corporate workforce planning advisor for Saudi Aramco.

Hattan Almehmadi,  
M.B.A. ’14,  
is general supervisor of ATMATA Training Institute, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

April Name,  
B.S. ’14,  
recently joined IU Kokomo as creative services manager. Previously she was design director and guest relations for Solutions Salon and Spa.

Mary Olk,  
B.S. ’13,  
recently accepted a new position as a communications specialist and content strategist at IUPUI. Previously, she was assistant director of student life and development at Ivy Tech Community College, Indianapolis.

Alan Biggs,  
M.B.A. ’01,  
is the chief operating officer at IU Health Bloomington Hospital. Previously he was vice president of EM CARE/EMVISION Physicians Services.

Master Trooper Ron Huff,  
B.S. ’93,  
recently was honored for 25 years as an Indiana State Trooper. He serves in the Pendleton district.

Amber Banks,  
M.S.N. ’19, B.S.N. ’05,  
recently joined the physicians and nurse practitioners with the Marion General Hospital Hospitalist program. She’s worked at the hospital since 2005, as a registered nurse in telemetry and the critical care department, and later as a unit shift manager.

Ashley (Miller) Leicht,  
M.B.A. ’19,  
is graduate program coordinator for the IU Kokomo School of Business.

Conner Norman,  
B.S. ’19,  
is a financial analyst for FirstPerson, a benefits and compensation advisory firm in Indianapolis.

Adam Gilbert,  
B.S. ’18,  
is education reporter at the Kokomo Tribune.

Ryan Bowerman,  
M.L.A. ’16,  
is an assistant coach for the Xavier University of Louisiana volleyball team.

Krysten Hinkle,  
M.P.M. ’10,  
is project coordinator for the Pulaski County Community Development Commission.

Melissa Hicks,  
B.S.N. ’09,  
was recently promoted to chief nursing officer at IU Health Tipton Hospital. She previously was interim CNO, while also serving as director of nursing operations.

Ruth Kain,  
B.S.N. ’95,  
was appointed chief nursing officer at Tulane Health Systems, New Orleans. She previously was vice president and associate chief nurse executive at IU Health in Indianapolis.
WATCH PARTY!

Throw on your IU gear and join us as we cheer our Hoosiers on to a win over Purdue!

Indiana University Kokomo at the IQ wall in the Cougar Country Café
Cost will be $10, which includes 1 beer or glass of wine and food. Cash bar available.

Show your trivia prowess for chances to win sweet IU swag.

Stay up to date at iuk.edu/alumni.

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better together
As a regional campus of Indiana University, a core part of IU Kokomo’s mission is to serve as a steward of place, enhancing the quality of life for the people of north central Indiana.

It achieves that mission by partnering with others in its 14-county region — not-for-profits, health care organizations, K-12 school corporations, businesses and others — with similar goals.

Chancellor Susan Sciame-Giesecke said partnerships go back to IU Kokomo’s beginnings 75 years ago, when area business leaders petitioned IU to adopt Kokomo Junior College as an IU extension center.

The campus has not only collaborated with area schools, but leaders have worked with organizations such as Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA), the Indiana Small Business Development Center, local government units and elected officials, hospitals, and many more.

Each entity benefits from the cooperation, she said, using the example of the long-term work with FCA.

“They employ several of our students as interns each year, and hire many of them when they complete those internships,” she said. “We assist FCA in growing its leaders from within, by providing an on-site Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) program. This partnership continues to grow, and we are excited about future possibilities.”

Partnering with the City of Kokomo and Kokomo Schools allowed the campus to grow its athletic program, with an agreement to allow IU Kokomo to turn the former Memorial Gym pool into Cougar Gym. That gave sports teams a home gym of their own, rather than borrowing space from other area schools. The city also permits the campus to use Kokomo Municipal Stadium, allowing for the addition of baseball and women’s soccer teams.

One of the most important partnerships, however, has been with K-12 schools, working together to increase the number of north central Indiana residents with bachelor’s degrees.

“We want every K-12 student to have the opportunity to have a conversation about going to college,” Sciame-Giesecke said. “We collaborate with our area school leaders on how we can introduce the idea of going to college at many grade levels.”

The campus has opened the doors to schools for visits by children in elementary, middle, and high school, with more than 2,200 touring in spring 2019. A partnership with the United Way Serving Howard and Tipton Counties, and the Kokomo Family YMCA,
brings about 1,600 kindergartners to visit each September, for the annual Walk into My Future event.

A new pilot collaboration is underway this school year, the Passport to College Program, with 10 school districts in the region. Students complete activities that encourage and support college-going behaviors in middle and high school, with a scholarship offered to students who complete the program and enroll at IU Kokomo.

“We believe we are having a positive impact on students who may not have had the opportunity to have that college conversation otherwise,” Sciame-Giesecke said.

The following stories highlight a variety of current partnerships between IU Kokomo and others in our region. These are the relationships that not only impact learning opportunities for our students, but strengthen economic growth and quality of life for the communities in which the campus serves.

Twice a week for the first semester of her senior year, she and several classmates boarded a bus at their high school, which brought them to campus for two classes, before returning to school. Second semester, she took an online class, completing it before she graduated.

When it came time to choose her college, the decision was easy.

“I felt comfortable here, and I knew my way around,” she said. “I had credits here, and I knew all the credits I earned in high school would transfer. It made for an easy transition.”

She’s among a growing number of Wabash High School students choosing IU Kokomo since the program began five years ago.

Angie Siders, director of admissions, worked with guidance counselors from the high school to get it started.

“These students experience what I would consider to be the most real form of dual credit there is,” she said. “Being immersed in a college class is giving them a real taste of what it would be like, allowing them to get their feet wet with the expectations, all while surrounded by the support system they have in high school and at home.”

IU Kokomo provided scholarships for part of the cost, with Wabash Schools paying part of the tuition, and students and their families funding a small portion.

Vinopal is among the one-third of participating students who chose IU Kokomo after graduating. With the credits she earned in high school, she could complete a bachelor’s degree in three years.

Jason Callahan, superintendent of the Wabash City Schools, said this 70 percent of the Class of 2019 went to college, the largest percentage since they began documenting that statistic.

“This past year, the number one school of choice for our students was IU Kokomo,” he said. “Not only do I think it plays a role in recruiting kids because their experience is positive, but it’s recruiting them to a four-year institution. For the first time in the history of us tracking it, the majority went to a four-year, not a two-year school.”
The partnership helps both schools in their shared mission of increasing the number of people in north central Indiana with college degrees. Giving students a positive first experience makes it more likely they will succeed in graduating, Callahan said, noting they had seen students flounder because while they were academically prepared, they didn’t know how to be a college student.

“Getting these students, especially those who are first-generation college students, a college campus experience before they go is vitally important,” he said, “Becoming an IU Kokomo student while also a Wabash High School student, and learning how to navigate, shows them they can succeed. If you climb one mountaintop, you can climb one more. I see this as that initial summit of a mountaintop.”

The program is growing in popularity as well — this year’s group of participants is the largest ever, at 18, and Wabash Schools had to increase to a full-sized bus. Many of those students have taken the dual-credit classes offered at the high school, and are ready for the challenge.

Lexi Westendorf and Trenton Daughtry are among those students, and they share a goal of earning all the credits to complete their freshman year while still in high school.

Daughtry said, “It’s good to get on campus and feel what college will be like. It’s a good experience to have.” Westendorf said it allows them to move toward the future.

“This is preparing us at a whole different level for college,” she said, “They’re really giving everyone a step forward in what they’re going to do.”

Because the Family Service Association of Howard County had a domestic violence shelter — that receives part of its funding from an annual IU Kokomo fundraiser — she had a safe place to find her footing, and begin the work to support herself and her children on her own.

Ten years later, Wright gives back as the FSA’s sexual assault advocate, accompanying victims through the criminal justice system and recovery, and teaching about prevention.

These programs rely on donations like those raised through IU Kokomo’s Angel Walk, which has raised more than $212,000 for the shelter since 2004.

“From a personal standpoint, the money donated made all the difference in the world to me,” Wright said. “It meant I could get into a safe place and get out of an unsafe relationship. Being able to stay in a safe place meant I could succeed, and go on to do the work I do. It means I can go to the hospital and be with a victim hours after he or she has been sexually assaulted, and comfort them and help them. I can continue to work with stakeholders in the community to have coordinated efforts to help victims.”

The cause is important to Chancellor Susan Sciam-e-Giesecke, who serves as president of its board of directors. She joined after hearing the shelter was in danger of closing, due to lack of funding.

“I wanted to be part of the solution,” she said. “The backbone of successful communities are healthy, strong families. We, as a community, are only as strong as our most vulnerable. I am proud to live in a community that looks out for one another, and FSA’s mission is supporting families to be healthy and strong.”

Hundreds of people — students, faculty, staff, and community members — have attended the Angel Walk.
Walk each April, raising money for the shelter and awareness of domestic violence.

Wright noted that the shelter’s annual operating budget is more than $850,000 and it all comes from grants and donations. That makes the money raised through the Angel Walk critically important.

The partnership is about far more than raising money, however. It’s also about education.

Faculty and students have partnered on several projects, including painting rooms in the shelter, teaching digital storytelling, résumé writing and basic computer skills to shelter residents.

Students learn through these service opportunities, Sciame-Giesecke said. “Hopefully, after learning what constitutes unacceptable behavior, and that there is help available, victims of domestic or sexual violence will seek assistance, and help stop the cycle of violence.”

These programs, as well as the Angel Walk, are an opportunity for the FSA to reach college students with a critical message, Wright said.

“It’s helps us get the word out to one of the most vulnerable demographics to sexual assault and domestic or dating violence,” she said. “The partnership gives us an excellent opportunity to educate students about domestic violence. It’s good to know not only yourself, but so you can be supportive and help a friend through that situation.”

They announced the start of the program in May 2016, with the hospital providing $500,000 over five years, to get it started.

Dean Susan Hendricks commended leadership at Community Howard Regional Health for its proactive decision.

“This was a really important gift for us,” she said. “In Indiana, many of our rural communities are underserved by primary health care providers. It’s a serious issue.”

Joe Hooper, president of Community Howard Regional Health, said a recent assessment showed the area is about 17 primary health care providers short of what the population requires. It’s unlikely hospital leadership could recruit 17 physicians in a short time, so partnering to start a family nurse practitioner program is an alternate way to address the need.

He added that in starting the program, preference was to be given to local applicants who want to stay in the area.

“We weren’t interested in training people to then leave the community,” he said. “We wanted to create our own pipeline, for providers to stay in the community.”

It’s beginning to pay off.

Mary Steinke, nurse practitioner track director, said classes are taught in person and in hybrid formula, which combines online and classroom experiences. Students take seven semesters of classes, including summer sessions, to complete in two and one-half years.
The first class of 13 family nurse practitioners graduated in May 2019 — and most had jobs lined up when they completed. Three of them now work for Community Physician practices.

Allison Cardwell is among those new nurse practitioners. A Kokomo native, her career goal had always been to serve as a nurse practitioner. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from IU Kokomo in 2010, and kept in touch with Mary Bourke, associate dean of graduate programs and associate professor, knowing there was potential for a program to start.

As a working nurse and mother of two young children, going out of town to earn her advanced practice degree wasn’t an option. She applied shortly after the school began taking applications.

A partnership effort led by Indiana University Kokomo has garnered more than $6 million in grant funding for north central Indiana in five years — money that has paid for community center construction, storm water planning projects, local street initiatives, workforce development, broadband planning, and other quality of place initiatives in six counties.

Chancellor Susan Sciame-Giesecke facilitated planning for the North Central Indiana Regional Planning Council (NCIRPC), with the goal of assisting with community development in Cass, Clinton, Fulton, Howard, Miami, and Tipton counties.

Steven Ray, NCIRPC executive director, said the organization is separate from the counties’ economic development corporations.

“Our role is to support our local units of government, by being a resource in increasing the capacity in community development projects and initiatives,” he said “That can be everything from infrastructure improvement projects to quality of life projects, or workforce development.”

The six counties involved have a long history of working together, Ray said, having worked together since the early 2000s to promote and market the region and to collaborate on workforce, education and transportation issues.

NCIRPC has brought in grant funding from a variety of local, state, and federal resources, including the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, U.S. Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Wabash Heartland Innovation Network, and county community foundations.
Campus leadership has stayed involved with the council after helping found it, Ray said.

“IU Kokomo is very engaged, very much an active partner in activities that the regional planning council either drives or is part of,” he said.

Sciame-Giesecke serves on the organization’s board of directors, and Cathy Valcke, director of external relations and public affairs, also is involved. As a regional campus, Valcke said, IU Kokomo serves as a “steward of place,” and its leadership in this organization fulfills that mission.

“As a university, we could convene meetings with a neutral facilitator to help form the organization,” she said. “Then, we were able to bring the campus’s resources, including personnel and experts in the field, to the table to help with projects as needed.”

For example, Alan Krabbenhoft, dean of the School of Business, and his students have assisted with projects in Fulton County. In addition, Leah Nellis, dean of the School of Education, is working with the school corporations in Miami County to bring the Tomorrow’s Teachers programs to those schools, allowing their students to take education classes for credit while still in high school.

Ray said the plan is to start Tomorrow’s Teachers in Miami County for the 2020-2021 school year.

“As the regional planning council, our role is to connect networks and people, outside of pursuing grants for communities,” he said. “These school districts are looking for career pathways. Because of IU Kokomo’s engagement with the regional planning council, we already know about this program that’s up and running. We can bring both sides together, and they can decide if they want to move forward together.”

Sciame-Giesecke and Valcke are both involved in NCIRPC’s effort to pursue designation as an Indiana 21st Century Talent Region, showing commitment to increase educational attainment, raise household income, and grow population.

Both IU Kokomo and the communities it serves benefit from the partnership, Valcke said.

“When we help raise the educational attainment level, it’s good for everybody,” she said. “Economic development benefits everybody. We want our graduates to have jobs to go to, so they don’t leave the area and the state. Anything we can do to help that along is beneficial to everyone, including IU Kokomo.”

Cultivating the future

As the campus looks toward the future, continued partnerships will be vital not only to the success of the campus, but to the citizens of north central Indiana as well.

“We are committed to providing the region with degree programs to fulfill changing needs in the years to come,” Sciame-Giesecke said. “We hope to grow our partnerships throughout all the communities we serve, and continue to enhance and foster the relationships that have brought us this far.”

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PARTNERS in GIVING

Building strong and vibrant communities starts when community members, institutions and organizations are able to come together. Through the gifts of our generous donors, Indiana University Kokomo continues to educate and partner with the communities in our region. We are so thankful for our donors past, present and future.

Grace Ebikwo, Kokomo

Giving is the only way to live.
That’s the philosophy Grace Ebikwo grew up with in Nigeria. She continues to live out that philosophy while earning her Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) at IU Kokomo.
“We were brought up to know that it is a privilege to have what we have,” she said, “As much as possible, we should extend a hand of giving to other people we meet. That’s the best way to live.”
That, and her first-hand view of how students are impacted by IU Kokomo, is why her family gives to the IU Kokomo fund through the IU Foundation.
“We see the possibilities that can happen for students here,” she said. “Every time I personally see the trips and opportunities that are here, I wish I could do something. I can’t do much, but with my small contribution, and other people giving theirs, we all make a difference. That’s more motivation for us to give as a family.”

Opportunity is what brought Ebikwo and her five children to the United States. With a previous degree in pharmacy in their home country, she wanted to earn a Master of Public Management. She completed that degree in 2016 at IU Kokomo, and will finish her M.B.A. in December. She’s currently deciding on her next steps, and may enroll in a Ph.D. program. Her goal is to be a teacher or administrator with programs for young people.

“Ultimately, I hope I am able to impact the lives of younger people from the experiences I’ve had so far, and what I’ve learned from being back in school as a non-traditional student,” she said.

Ebikwo has worked on campus as a student, currently as an admissions ambassador. She’s also been an orientation leader, and a student assistant in human resources, career services, and university advancement.

“I love what I see happening for students here, and the commitment IU Kokomo has to student success,” she said. “I can attest to the ease of communication with faculty, and the resources that are poured into students. I want to see more students impacted, and more have the chance to do what they ordinarily would not be able to do, because of my giving.”

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Dr. Robert and Debbie Christensen, Fishers

As Dr. Robert Christensen worked his way through Indiana University Kokomo, the example of his mother, Doris Alcorn Korba, inspired him.

In her early 40s, with three children at home, his mother enrolled in the Kokomo School of Practical Nursing, which led to a nursing career of more than 20 years at Dukes Memorial Hospital in Peru.

“She worked very hard. She didn’t have it easy due to her circumstances,” he said. “I feel like earning her degree was a great accomplishment.”

After he graduated from IU Kokomo in 1976, he was admitted to the IU School of Medicine, leading him to a successful career as a family physician, first in Michigan, then in Cicero. He completed his career in the Ball State Student Health Center two years ago.

He’s now teaching a physiology lab in the IU Kokomo School of Sciences.

The Christensens established the Doris Alcorn Nursing Scholarship this year, in honor of his mother, as well as the influence IU Kokomo had on his life. They’ve also made a planned gift from their estate.

“I was very happy I attended IU Kokomo,” he said. “It was probably the best college I could have attended, because of the smaller class size and the excellent professors who really cared about the students. I felt it was a more personal relationship with the faculty. It’s grown and improved since I was here, but I think it’s an outstanding college, and prepared me well.”

Christensen believes his mother would be proud to have a scholarship in her name. He’s pleased to help future nurses.

“I just think nurses are angels, and want to contribute to a scholarship to help students financially, to ease their way through college,” he said.
City of Kokomo, Mayor Greg Goodnight

The Kokomo City Council recently approved a gift of $250,000 for IU Kokomo’s Student Activities and Events Center, currently under construction on the campus’s east side.

Mayor Greg Goodnight hopes the contribution will encourage others in the community to support the center.

“The council members and I believe this is an important addition to the campus, and we want to make sure it’s completed,” said Goodnight, noting that when the campus thrives, so does the city.

“The Student Activities and Events Center will be an asset not only for IU Kokomo, but for the city,” he said.

He sees it as an investment in the city and campus’s development.

“If you look at what happened in the great recession in 2008, and you look at the population shifts taking place around the country, cities and regions that have a university are actually doing much better than those that don’t have one,” he said. “Having IU Kokomo here is important for our city.”

The campus can provide its resources in the community, including faculty sharing expertise, and students, faculty, and staff serving as volunteers in the area. It also brings potential residents and entrepreneurs to the city.

“You want people to come to your community, whether it be to visit or go to school,” he said. “Our goal is that they fall in love with Kokomo, and want to make their home here.”

Goodnight was pleased the city could be part of growing the campus, because of its importance to the area.

“I’ve talked to mayors in other cities who are jealous, because they don’t have an IU regional campus in their cities. They recognize the importance of this asset.”

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Your gifts. Our Progress.

New state-of-the-art buildings and learning spaces. Hundreds of student scholarships. Experiential, life-changing learning opportunities. The generosity of our donors makes the big things we do at IU Kokomo possible. In addition to supporting our region, these gifts contribute to the $3 billion For All: The Indiana University Bicentennial Campaign goal. We thank our 2018 donors for believing in our mission and providing opportunities for our students, our campus, and our community.

Elwood Haynes Society

Members of our Elwood Haynes Society have made planned & estate gifts to IU Kokomo.

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Donald and Gail Almquist
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Phoenix Society  Members of our Phoenix Society have made gifts of $400-$999 to IU Kokomo.

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Todd and Jeannie Gambill

Chancellor’s Guild Society  Members of our Chancellor’s Guild Society have made gifts of $1000-$4,999 to IU Kokomo.

American Water Works  Janet Godfrey  Sonnie Neal
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Seiberling Society  Members of our Seiberling Society have made gifts of $5000 or more to IU Kokomo.

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Have you been keeping up with Cougar Athletics? Here’s some highlights so far from this semester:

In women’s cross country, Lexi Jackson is a contender for first place at the RSC Championship. She recorded a time of 18:50.90 at the NAIA Great Lakes Challenge, which is the ninth fastest time in school history. She also won “River States Conference Runner of the Week” twice this season. Jordan Fivcoate is the top runner for men’s cross country, coming in first in three out of the six regular season races.

The first season of women’s soccer brought an overall record of 7-7-3 and 3-4-3 RSC and earned a bid to the River States Conference Tournament for post-season play, a huge achievement for a first-year program.

IU Kokomo volleyball, in the West Division of the River States Conference, is currently ranked third out of six teams. Lizzie Sokeland is the top hitter, and ranked No. 1 in hitting percentage out of the entire conference, and Erinn Adams is ranked No. 1 for blocks/set.

For more details on Cougar Athletics, go to iukcougars.com.
Building a Legacy,

BLOCK BY BLOCK

At IU Kokomo, excitement is building as the Student Activities and Events Center continues to become more of a reality each and every day. We’re raising the bar and changing the dynamic of our campus and our community with this brand new space which will host sporting events, dynamic speakers, and a learning environment. Now, all we need is you.

Play a role in our momentum by donating to the Student Activities and Events Center. Contact Jan Halperin, vice chancellor for University Advancement at 765-455-9415.

Donate and see weekly updates at iuk.edu/eventscenter.

As always, thank you for your support.
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