

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Longtime IU Kokomo leader receives Chancellor’s Medallion

KOKOMO, Ind. — Indiana University Kokomo Chancellor Susan Sciame-Giesecke honors a long-time administrator for his campus leadership, awarding him the Chancellor’s Medallion.

Jack Tharp, who served 32 years at IU Kokomo, received the medallion at his retirement celebration.

He also received the E. Ross Bartley Award from Mary Frances McCourt, IU vice president and treasurer. The award is the highest staff award given by the IU president, honoring administrative or support staff who demonstrate outstanding leadership skills, service, and professional accomplishment at the local, state, or national level.

His IU Kokomo career began in 1981, as director of university relations. He became director of student services in 1984, and later was appointed vice chancellor of student affairs. He served as interim athletic director when IU Kokomo’s intercollegiate athletics program began.

Tharp initiated a nationally recognized student success tuition discount program at IU Kokomo.

In 2012, he was appointed senior director of financial literacy for Indiana University, to establish a comprehensive program to give students the tools needed to complete college without excessive debt.

The MoneySmarts program has been recognized as a Model of Excellence by University Business magazine. As part of the program, IU students receive letters twice yearly, updating them on what they have borrowed and what it will take to repay the loan. In an early success story, college debt for students across all IU campuses declined by 12 percent, or \$31 million, from 2013 to 2014.

On his retirement, Jack and his wife, Pam, established an endowed fund to support overseas travel programs for students, saying “travel is the best classroom, the best teacher.”

The Jack-Ryan International Travel Fund, named after Tharp’s grandsons, continues his legacy of supporting students and sustaining enriched learning goals. The fund is open to contributions from friends by going to iuk.edu and choosing the Give Now button.

The Chancellor's Medallion is awarded to those who have provided exemplary service to IU Kokomo. It is created by Kokomo Opalescent Glass, from crimson-colored glass, etched with the image of the campus Well House.

Indiana University Kokomo serves north central Indiana.

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