LEAD FROM WHERE YOU ARE

Celebrating the legacy of IU Kokomo’s 7th chancellor, Susan Sciame-Giesecke.
A REMARKABLE LEADER

Chancellor Susan Sciame-Giesecke’s career at Indiana University Kokomo can truly be described as remarkable.

From her beginnings as an assistant professor of communication arts more than 40 years ago, all the way to the chancellor’s office, she has been a leader at all levels. Now, she’s stepping into a new role, as IU’s Vice President for Regional Campuses and Online Education.

In this issue, she reflects on her legacy at IU Kokomo – what’s been accomplished, and where the campus will go in the future.

Thank you, Chancellor, for your contributions in making IU Kokomo what it is today!

Read more about her legacy, starting on page 12.

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When I started as a professor at Indiana University Kokomo in 1977, I had no idea that I would be the Chancellor 40 years later. As I reflect on my tenure on campus, I know I am blessed with a career that brought me such joy and reward every day.

As a first-generation college student, it didn’t take long for the mission of this regional campus to capture my heart. At IU Kokomo we are founded on the principle that every student matters here.

Students and their success has always been my focus. Knowing how important engagement would be to the growth of our campus and our students, early in my career, I had the pleasure of organizing many of IU Kokomo’s first student activities programs. Many of you may have taken part in a Carriage House Theater production or were on the Speech Team, I know I had a good number of you in class as a communications professor.

My time as Chancellor has been so incredibly rewarding. It has allowed me to share my passion for the students we serve and champion the importance of higher education in north central Indiana.

As I transition this summer from Chancellor to Vice President of Regional Campuses and Online Education, I would like to challenge you, our alumni, to get involved and make a difference in the lives of our students and prospective students. YOU are important to the future growth and success of this campus!

A few years ago, we celebrated our 75th anniversary and it’s my hope I am leaving this campus ready to take on the next 75 years. You play an important role in this success. We need you to be engaged to help make this happen. Take in a musical performance or a theatre production...or come cheer on the Cougars in one of twelve varsity sports we compete in. There are many ways you can get involved!

I see each of you as an ambassador for IU Kokomo and encourage you to Lead From Where You Are. Take a look around your community; is there a high school student you could mentor and accompany on a campus tour? Or how about that mom who always wanted to complete her degree and could benefit by hearing your success story?

My husband, Dan, and I will continue to live in the region, and I cannot wait to see all the great things you will continue to do in the communities in which you live.

A campus is a strong as its alumni base. Knowing this, I know IU Kokomo will continue to grow and will make a difference in the lives of many.

Susan Sciame-Giesecke, Ph.D.
Chancellor
Greetings, fellow alumni!

Welcome to the spring/summer edition of your alumni magazine.

This issue focuses on Chancellor Susan Sciame-Giesecke, highlighting her 45 years at IU Kokomo. Many of you probably remember her in the classroom, helping you to become a better public speaker or in a different communication arts course. I’ve heard from countless of you how much you enjoyed having her as a professor, and the robust knowledge she instilled in you.

I remember when she was the Dean of Arts and Sciences, which is now the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. After transferring to IU Kokomo, I didn’t really know any of the faculty here. I heard Chancellor Sciame-Giesecke speak and was immediately drawn into what she was saying, which was encouraging, powerful, and heartfelt. I hoped I would have the opportunity to learn from her in the classroom in an advanced communication course for the communication arts degree. Much to my chagrin, that opportunity was never presented to me as a student.

However, I have had the opportunity to learn from her as an IU employee and experience her transformational leadership. Her mantra, “lead from where you are,” constantly runs through my mind as I am thinking of a new alumni initiative or event. This saying is powerful on many levels. Not only does it allow a person to follow their instincts and try something new, but it also allows one to stretch and challenge themselves, ultimately leading to some spectacular professional development.

Chancellor Sciame-Giesecke’s impact on IU Kokomo and IU will be felt for many years to come. She’s helped so many of you realize your dreams, as well as assisting numerous current and former faculty members to become incredible professors in and out of the classroom. As one chapter of IU Kokomo closes, a new one lies on the horizon. Chancellor Sciame-Giesecke, like you, is an intricate part of the fabric that is IU Kokomo and has helped our beloved alma mater become a school of choice for so many, allowing them to achieve their goal of an IU education closer to home.

She will never be forgotten and will always be a part of Indiana University Kokomo for all time. And for that, we thank her for her undying commitment to all of us and are grateful for her timeless legacy to the university, to Kokomo, and the surrounding communities IU Kokomo serves, and we wish her all the best.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Liechty, B.A. ’06
Director of Alumni Relations and Campus Ceremonies
Stay connected to IU Kokomo through the IU Alumni Association. We’ll introduce you to alumni in your area and invite you to exclusive events. Plus, your member gift provides access to the IUAA’s core and enhanced services:

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Thank you to the following individuals for their years of service to the IUAA Kokomo Region Board of Directors!

- **Melinda Stanley** - 2012-2022
- **Gloyd Johnson** - 2018-2022
- **Lucien Madding** - 2016-2022
- **Sarah Hartman** - 2018-2022

The Board of Directors work to create alumni engagement opportunities, recruit alumni volunteers, and raise funds for the Kokomo Region Alumni scholarships, which benefit current and future IU Kokomo students.

*Interested in learning more about how you can volunteer or serve on the alumni board?*
Email Benjamin Liechty, Director of Alumni Relations, at alumni@iuk.edu and help us continue to make a difference in the lives of students and our fellow IU alumni!
What does it mean to be an IU Kokomo graduate?

To me, it means **anything is possible** if you put your mind to it.

Tia Chambers, Mishawaka
Health sciences

“It’s obviously something I’m very proud of. To me, it means being part of the community. A lot of campuses are so large, and so overwhelming. Here I always feel like I have a sense of family, of being part of a community of esteemed professionals, or professionals-to-be.”

Jacob Barnes, Kokomo
Master of Science in Nursing

“For me, being an IUK graduate means **access to amazing opportunities** and accomplishments.”

Tiffany Burnett, Logansport
Math and biochemistry
Finally being able to call myself an IU Kokomo graduate will forever hold a sentimental value for me. Looking back at my journey here at IU, I’ve slowly come to learn that my sense of pride and accomplishments doesn’t solely come from receiving a degree/diploma. It comes from years of uncertainty, overcoming challenges I didn’t think I could handle, balancing school-work-life, and learning that it’s okay to move at my own pace. Being an IU Kokomo graduate means that I’ve learned to become persistent in pursuing the path I wanted, and I couldn’t be more proud of myself for how far I’ve come.

Jean Redfern, Kokomo
Informatics

“It means everything to me. I was somebody growing up not knowing if I would attend college. Now I’m the first person in my family to do so. It means a lot to me and to my family, especially my mother. She’s the one who really pushed me to pursue a degree and to have the mentality to finish what I started.”

Trequan Spivey, Indianapolis
Sport and recreation management

“I’m proud to be an IU Kokomo Cougar graduate. At the beginning, when I graduated with my associate degree from Ancilla, I did not think I would end up with my bachelor’s. I was going to try to get a job with my associate degree. IU Kokomo made it smooth helping me get to this point that I am able to achieve my bachelor’s degree. I am happy and proud.”

Nicole Sharp, Sharpsville
Criminal justice

“It means I am part of the IU family, and that opens so many doors. Graduating from IU means something to me. I chose IU Kokomo because I’m getting the same IU diploma as someone from IU Bloomington or IUPUI.”

Madi Guffey, Carmel
History and political science

“IU Kokomo pushed me in a direction I never would have guessed even five years ago. I’ve found a direction for myself that I wouldn’t have even known was possible without coming here. Even when it’s been frustrating, it’s been an overwhelmingly positive experience.”

Dan Allender West, Logansport
Communication
Indiana University Kokomo celebrated the academic achievements of 2022 graduates during Commencement on Wednesday, May 11, during an outdoor ceremony at the Pavilion. IU President Pamela Whitten presided over the ceremony. Diana Paola Cubides Matallana, Bogotá, Colombia, represented the class as student speaker. Nathaniel Moore, Kokomo, lead singing of the National Anthem and Alma Mater. Mary-Matalyn Tom, Carmel, lead induction of the class into the IU Alumni Association.

**ABOUT THE CLASS OF 2022**

- **693** Graduates
- **41** Indiana counties
- **13** States
- **18** Countries
- **32%** First generation
- **24** with a 4.0 GPA
- **618** Bachelor’s degrees
- **66** Master’s degrees
- **20** Associate degrees
FOR MORE COMMENCEMENT PHOTOS SEARCH @IUKOKOMO ON FLICKR
It has been another historic year for the Indiana University Kokomo Athletics Department. In their first full season since the 2018-19 season, Cougar teams reached many milestones during the 2021-22 year.

In his fourth season as coach, Eric Echelbarger led the men’s basketball team to its most successful season in program history. The Cougars captured both the River States Conference regular season and tournament titles for the first time in program history. The team finished with a 16-1 record in conference play and was selected as an eight-seed in the 2022 NAIA Men’s Basketball Championship. Fifth year senior, Desean Hampton, was named RSC Player of the Year, while Echelbarger was tabbed as the Coach of the Year. Trequan Spivey earned a First Team selection.

The Cougars entered the National Tournament on a 17-game win streak, the second longest streak in the country. After a first-round win over ninth seed Dordt University, the Cougars shocked the nation’s No. 1 team William Penn University, ending the Statesmen’s 20-game winning streak and advancing to the Sweet 16. The Cougars season ended in Kansas City against Concordia University (Neb.). Hampton and Spivey were both named NAIA All-Americans.

The IU Kokomo cross country programs sent two athletes to the 2021 NAIA Cross Country Championship. Lexi Jackson represented the women’s team while Luis Saldana earned a spot in the field that included 330 runners. Saldana finished 169th place and was the first male to qualify for the Cougars in six years. Jackson capped off her career with a 42nd place finish, tying for the highest finish at NAIA Nationals in program history.

Under first-year head coach, Sohaila Akhavein, the IU Kokomo women’s soccer program had its share of program firsts. The Cougars earned six RSC victories, the most conference wins since the program’s inception in 2019. A 3-0 victory over conference foe, Midway University, was the first time the Cougars have defeated the Eagles. The Cougars’ 6-9-2 record earned them a trip to the RSC Championship where they fell to Point Park, 1-0 in double overtime. Morgan Scruggs and Keely Hoopingarner represented IU Kokomo on the RSC First Team.

The women’s basketball program saw new leadership during the 2021-22 season as John Kenger took the reins. Kenger led the Cougars to nine victories, six of them coming during conference play. Tia Chambers reached 1,000 career points and was named to the RSC First Team, her third selection.

The IUK men’s golf team earned a third-place finish at the 2022 RSC Championship at Belterra Resort Golf Course. Jack Barnes and Harley Pugh earned top 10 finishes at the Championship. Pugh finished in a tie for seventh, earning him a spot on the All-Conference team while Barnes was tied for 10th.

Brandi Jones, Peru, was named RSC Golfer of the Year, after winning the conference championship at Belterra Resort Golf Course. She is the first IUK golfer (men or women) to qualify for the NAIA National Championship.

In outdoor track and field, the men’s team finished third of 12 teams, with Caleb Vogl (3K steeplechase), Luis Saldana (10k race, 5k race), Nolan Talley (400m hurdles), Drew Caldwell (800m), and the 4x800 relay team of Mason McKinney, Clay Brubaker, Talley, and Julian Wallace earning all-conference honors. Saldana also won Newcomer of the Year.

The women’s team finished 5th of 12 in the conference meet, with first-place finishes by Emma Byrum (javelin), Lanie Pocock (5,000m racewalk), and Shalihn Compton (discus). Also earning all-conference honors were Hailey Law (5k racewalk), Sidney Berry (racewalk), and Casey Lechner (1500m).

The women’s tennis team set a program record for wins, posting a 14-10 overall record for the season. Three players were named to RSC all-conference teams, a program best.

Stay up-to-date on all things athletics at iukcougars.com
As Chancellor Susan Sciame-Giesecke begins a new role as IU Vice President for Regional Campuses and Online Education, we reflect on the impact her leadership has had on our campus and community.
“I HOPE I’M REMEMBERED AS SOMEONE WHO WAS A CHAMPION FOR STUDENTS”

Lead from where you are.

This philosophy — inviting those around her to see opportunities and take bold steps to achieve them — has guided Susan Sciame-Giesecke during her 10 years as Indiana University Kokomo’s Chancellor.

It came to her in her first hours as interim chancellor, following the sudden departure of her predecessor in 2012.

“In my own mind, I knew I could not do this by myself,” she said. “I told my colleagues, ‘I need you to come with me. It would take all of us to overcome that challenging time. People continued to do what they needed to do. We did not lose our momentum. We really took off after that. We all came together.”

Under her leadership, IU Kokomo has experienced record enrollment and graduation rates, and launched numerous degrees, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The Main Building received a $14 million renovation, with the space essentially gutted to create modern new learning spaces, places for students to gather and collaborate, a food and nutrition lab, and more. Additions included the Cole Fitness Center, a greenhouse, and the Student Activities and Events Center, an $8.4 million space that is not only home to Cougar athletics but is also used for campus and community events.

In addition to leading IU Kokomo, Sciame-Giesecke has been responsible for IU’s five regional campuses for the last year, as interim executive vice president, leading collaborative efforts to maximize opportunities for student success. She has been responsible for university-wide academic initiatives and programs, external academic relations and online education.

As she begins a new role as IU vice president for regional campuses and online education, Sciame-Giesecke reflected on how leading from where she was impacted the campus and community — and how she can build on IU’s success with her experience.

Based on a regional campus her entire career, she looks forward to the challenge of leading statewide, with the potential for greater impact.

“To be able to support other regional campuses is a challenge I could not pass up,” she said. “We need to continue to be stewards of place and lift up the regions we serve throughout the state of Indiana. I know we can make a difference in our college going rates and provide the state of Indiana with a well-educated workforce.”

At the end, she said, everything she did was about creating opportunities for IU Kokomo students.

“I hope I’m remembered as someone who was a champion for students,” she said. “That would make me feel good if I knew that everything I did in my career, the work I did, was really all about the students.”
Leading as chancellor was a role she never could have imagined when she arrived at IU Kokomo in 1977 as a newly hired assistant professor of communication. Coming from a Chicago suburb, and having just earned her master’s degree, she didn’t plan to stay long.

“It’s an unusual story,” she said. “I don’t know that there are too many people who start as a professor and end as chancellor. I thought I was going to stay for a few years and then leave for my doctorate.”

Instead, she began building a community around herself, both professionally and personally.

“It was a little scary at first, coming from a large city,” she said. “Now I couldn’t imagine living anywhere else. I became committed to the Kokomo community and wanted it to succeed.”

She put down roots, marrying Dan Giesecke, who owned a business in Kokomo, and raising daughters Lauren and Lindsey. She earned tenure and completed her Ph.D. while teaching speech communication to undergraduates.

Sciame-Giesecke also learned from campus leaders, like Chancellor Emerita Emita Hill, “who was probably my first true mentor, who tapped me on the shoulder to say I had leadership potential.”

Stuart Green, who ended his IU Kokomo career as interim chancellor, and Chancellor Emerita Ruth J. Person also played important roles to her.

“It wasn’t what they said,” she recalled. “It was just the fact they invited me into projects and had faith and confidence that I could pull it off. I’ve always had an interest in doing something different, or something more.”

Though she hadn’t formalized her “lead from where you are” philosophy, she lived it. When she saw something missing, she started it, organizing a speech team, a theatre department, a student activities office, freshman learning communities, and the Enhancing Minority Attainment conference.

“I was always working on an interesting project, and that kept me motivated,” she said. “Even though I’ve been here 45 years, I’ve done a lot of different things in addition to teaching. All of it was about getting students involved and helping them succeed.”

She continued moving up the career ladder, as coordinator for the communication arts program, assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs, chair of the humanities department, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs.

One role that hadn’t crossed her mind was chancellor — until then-IU President Michael A. McRobbie pressed her into service as interim during a sudden change of leadership. With the campus at a crossroads, faculty and staff were looking to her to guide them in how to move forward.
“I KNOW I MADE THE RIGHT DECISION TO STAY AT A SMALL CAMPUS FOR SO MANY YEARS. THIS IS WHERE I BELONGED”

“I enjoyed the work I did on the academic side of the house,” she said. “I loved being with the faculty and the students, and that isn’t the focus of the chancellor role. After serving in the interim role, I saw I could impact in other ways.”

Sciame-Giesecke became IU Kokomo’s seventh chancellor in April 2014 — a role she valued.

“You know you impact a lot of people’s lives when you sit in this seat,” she said. “You want to move the organization in the right way. You want to leave it better than you found it, so you question your decisions. It weighs on you, and it’s with you 24/7.”

Surrounding herself with strong leaders was a key factor in her success.

“You want to find people who buy into the campus vision, but also will challenge you so you make good decisions,” she said. “That was my blessing, to have those people. I wanted people who were visionary, who looked to the future, weren’t afraid to make decisions, and could collaborate and communicate.”

In an increasingly competitive market to attract students, she challenged her team to find what made IU Kokomo distinctive — which led to the IU Kokomo Experience and You, or KEY Program. KEY experiences are woven through students’ time on campus, from the KEY Summer Institute to prepare them for college success before their first classes, to travel experiences that have included the Field Museum in Chicago, Google Headquarters in San Francisco, Yellowstone National Park, and behind-the-scenes at the Walt Disney World Resort. KEY also includes hands-on internships, using skills learned in the classrooms as consultants to local businesses and not-for-profits, and researching and presenting with faculty at national professional conferences.

Since 2016, more than 1,000 students have participated in KEY experiences — and most are free or low cost, making them available to all students. Removing the barrier of cost, to include the greatest number of students possible, is a point of pride for Sciame-Giesecke, who wants all students to be able to participate.

“Students get so excited when they recount the learning that took place in these experiences, and on these trips,” she said. “They also often mention the number of friends they make, and the connections created with their faculty.”

An influential member of her team was the late Gerry Stroman, who was her first chief of staff. Sciame-Giesecke recalled she could count on Stroman for sound advice, and to be the voice championing diversity, equity and inclusion.

Stroman, who passed away in April 2021, would be proud of the campus’s Multicultural Center, which opened in November 2020 as a resource for all students, and a place for those from underrepresented populations to have their unique needs met. It houses the Black Student Center, the LGBTQ+ Center, the Latinos Unidos: Hispanic Center, International Student Services, and the coordinator for student life and campus diversity.
The Center was much needed, with a growing number of students of color included in the record-breaking enrollment growth in recent years. The campus reached a high of 3,227 students in fall 2021.

Athletic programs contributed to the growth, by adding a new element of the total college experience. The program began in 2011 with 19 athletes in women’s volleyball and men’s basketball. Today, there are 14 varsity sports, with about 230 athletes participating.

The women’s volleyball team has won multiple River States Conference championships, and the men’s basketball team recently won its first, and advanced to the Sweet 16 in the NAIA tournament. Track athlete Grant Gaylor won the campus’s first NAIA national championship, in shot put, in 2021.

“Athletics has added another dimension to a vibrant and active campus,” she said, adding that the student-athletes are among the best students. “The games bring an energy to the campus. The athletes come from so many different states and even countries, so they bring diversity to the campus, too.”

Students also made IU Kokomo a campus of choice for the wide variety of degrees, including new offerings in hospitality and tourism management, sport and recreation management, computer science, new media, art and technology, applied sciences, and the Family Nurse Practitioner graduate degree.

Under her leadership, the campus also experienced its most successful fundraising campaign ever, with more than $16 million garnered during the Bicentennial Campaign. Those funds benefit student scholarships and travel, paid for much of the Student Activities and Events Center, provided a new greenhouse for the School of Sciences, and much more.

While she’s excited to take on a larger role for IU, she also appreciates what the Kokomo campus offers.

“Now that I’m working in Bloomington and on a larger level, I know I made the right decision to stay at a small campus for so many years. This is where I belonged,” she said. “I’ve experienced the larger university, but it’s not the same. When you get to see the immediate impact of your work on students, faculty and staff, it’s more of a family.

Attending recent admissions dinners with potential students and their families brought it full circle.

“I love every minute of this,” she said. “This is what I like to do. It was fun to sit with the families and their students and help them realize their dreams. It’s a great way to come to the end of this part of my career, to re-experience it.”
There are three major components to leading from where you are. They are: Culture, People and Vision.

CULTURE MATTERS:
THE SCIENCE OF CARE
Day after day, people do not come to work for a time clock. They come to work with others. And for them to give anything other than the minimum, they must have relationships. The foundation of all relationships is what we say to one another, both verbally and nonverbally.

I have made it my life’s work to try to form meaningful relationships with those I spend hours with at work. It is the foundation of success.

PEOPLE MATTER:
LEAD FROM WHERE YOU ARE
To thrive, humans need to feel seen, heard, felt and understood. They need meaning and life purpose, including opportunities to collaborate with others and contribute to the society in which they desire to belong.

VISION MATTERS:
BIG BOLD IDEAS
Having a vision is vital, and just as important is making sure everyone in your organization knows their voice is needed and is heard. I see each person as a leader, and each person needs to be empowered and learn to lead to be successful.
SHAPE CONVERSATIONS

• Leaders initiate and guide important conversations around issues that impact others.

• Good talk is unlikely to happen if we do not expect it, invite it into being, and provide inclusive space for the conversation to occur.

• Leaders know that the goal of communication is to reach understanding—not necessarily agreement.

GENERATE AND DIRECT ENERGY

• Leadership is “energy, not control” Astin and Leland, Women of Influence, Women of Vision.

• Leaders are proactive not reactive.

• Leaders see a need for change and then begin to work with others to direct energy toward that change effort. They are a catalyst for collective action.

HOLD THE ORGANIZATION IN TRUST

• Leaders care about their organization.

• They own the purpose of the organization.

• They understand their own purpose and how it relates to the organization.

DO THE RIGHT THING

• Leaders maintain a shift in perspective from “doing things right” to “doing the right thing”.

• Leaders see the bigger picture.

• They work for the betterment of the larger community.

BUILD TOWARD AGREEMENT

• Leadership is the subtle process of mutual influence, it is not a single person, position, or action.

• It is the fusing of thoughts, feelings, and actions of the whole community to produce a collaborative effort.

• When you are leading, you open rather than occupy space—respecting others and understanding how connected and resourceful we all are.
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David Williams
Anonymous

Become a donor today! Learn more about ways you can give at go.iu.edu/3Q8f
1. & 7. IU Day
Students, faculty, staff, and even Kingston Cougar enjoyed taking and sharing selfies during the IU Day celebration. We raised nearly $6,000 in scholarship money during the celebration, breaking a previous record, and Kingston won the all-IU mascot talent show.

2. & 4. Chancellor’s Guild Dinner
Donors and friends of the campus went back to the 50s, enjoying the atmosphere of Sue’s Diner, during the annual Chancellor’s Guild dinner.

5. Alumni and Friends Distinction Celebration
The School of Nursing and Allied Health Professions recognized the third class of Nurses of Distinction, and the first honorees as Allied Health Professionals of Distinction and Distinguished Friends of the School.

3. & 6. Night Under the Lights
IU Kokomo alumni cheered on the Cougar baseball team at the Night Under the Lights, at Kokomo Municipal Stadium.
celebrate her legacy

Join us as we celebrate Chancellor Susan Sciame-Giesecke’s incredible legacy. Throughout her time at IU Kokomo, she has been an advocate for supporting students and their success. Please consider joining her in supporting IU Kokomo students with a gift to one of her favorite funds:

IUK Scholarship Program: 0380010584
IU Kokomo Student Activities and Events Center: 0320014303
Havens Auditorium Rehabilitation Fund: 0380010580
Giesecke Family Men’s Golf Scholarship: 0380014262

Or give to your fund of choice by going to: go.iu.edu/4pJU

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Indiana University Kokomo was there for you when you were a student, and we will continue to support your educational needs and interests as an alum.

**KEY ACADEMY**
The KEY Academy features short-term opportunities to learn about favorite subjects, such as sports, religion, and history or to explore career opportunities through job shadowing, meetings with professionals, and more.

[link to KEY Academy](iuk.edu/keyacademy)

**MICROCREDENTIALS**
Microcredentials are badges you can earn for completing trainings in narrowly defined areas, such as “Leading Change” and “Responsive Strategies for K-12 Student Behavior.”

[link to Microcredentials](iuk.edu/microcredentials)

Look for upcoming announcements about both of these forms of lifelong learning in the months ahead.