New chancellor, new chapter

Collaboration is KEY to Canada’s leadership
NEW Chancellor

We’re taking this opportunity to introduce Chancellor Mark Canada. He’s familiar to many on campus and throughout the region, as he’s served as deputy chancellor for the last year and was executive vice chancellor for academic affairs since 2015.

You’ll learn more about why he’s dedicated his career to higher education — including his focus on success for first-generation students, his emphasis on creating a more sustainable campus environment, and the impact of the KEY program, developed under his leadership.

Canada leads collaboratively, inviting faculty, staff, and students to participate. He launched his tenure as chancellor with “100 Ways in 100 Days,” asking the campus community to suggest ideas they could lead to improve the campus.

During his installation ceremony on October 21, IU President Pamela Whitten noted that Canada understands the mission of regional campuses, and has been a champion for student engagement.

“Under the leadership of Chancellor Mark Canada, I am confident that the IU Kokomo campus, and the entire region, can look forward to even bigger, better, and brighter days ahead,” she said.

Read more about Chancellor Canada starting on page 7.

Featured on the front cover
FRONT ROW Tina Robinson (Welcome Center Associate, Office of Admissions), Kelly Fisher, M.S., Senior Lecturer in Criminal Justice and Homeland Security, Crime Lab Director, Mary Hogsett (Student Government Association President), Chancellor Mark Canada, Ph.D., Shiloh Pullen (Resource Navigator, Office of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management), JC Barnett III (Financial Aid Counselor and VA Certifying Official), Reese Johnson (Business student & Women’s Tennis)
BACK ROW Andrea Mendez-Rodriguez (Student Government Association Vice-President), Mark Meng (Assistant Professor of Hospitality and Tourism), Mary Dada (Nursing student), Julien Wallace (Education student & Men’s Indoor Track), Andy Tuholski, Ph.D. (Director of the Office of Sustainability and Assistant Professor of Political Science)
A hidden gem

If you agree with me that IU Kokomo is a gem, perhaps you also agree that it’s a hidden gem.

The hidden part is the part I want to change, and you can help.

Too often, regional campuses such as IU Kokomo are not fully appreciated. Yes, they are affordable, and close to home, but they can be so much more.

IU Kokomo is a perfect example.

Because our class sizes are small, students can develop strong relationships with their professors (as I hope you did). These professors, in turn, can help connect them with opportunities on and off campus that stretch their abilities, broaden their horizons, and connect them with people and more opportunities.

Opportunities are among the most valuable parts of the IU Kokomo experience. We don’t have hundreds or thousands of students competing for the same part in a play, the same position on a team or a publication staff, or the same spot in a research lab. Our students can do just about anything they want — and enjoy all the benefits that come with it: experience, relationships, and fun.

We are particularly proud of the opportunities we provide through the Kokomo Experience and You (KEY), our signature experiential-learning initiative. No matter their major, our students can participate in dozens of transformative learning experiences, from on-campus simulations and research projects, to internships and community projects, to long-distance trips to educational destinations in Chicago, New York, Disney World, and Yellowstone National Park.

Many of these KEY experiences are free or very affordable, as they should be. Our annual tuition of less than $8,000 is affordable, too. In fact, the IU regional campuses are among the least expensive four-year colleges and universities in the entire state.

Ironically, our affordability may be working against us. Some students may mistakenly believe that because they pay less, students get less. The reality is that IU Kokomo, as a public institution, receives very generous financial support from the state of Indiana and private donors. For this reason, we can offer as much as (or more than) private schools and charge much less. The result is amazing value for every student.

Since I became chancellor, I have been out in our 14-county region spreading the word about IU Kokomo. Can you help? Share your positive experiences. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to check us out at a VIP event for prospective students or one of our many community events. If you need free athletic tickets, please email iukchanc@iuk.edu.

Help me turn our hidden gem into a visible, even famous gem!

Mark Canada, Ph.D.
Chancellor
Alumni scholarship recipients

Scholarships make a difference and benefit students in so many ways. They are even more meaningful when they come from IU Kokomo alumni who have been in the same place and are providing the next generation a chance to succeed.

On September 30, we celebrated Kokomo Region Alumni scholarship recipients. Those recognized were Mary Dada, Alexis Pier, John Wasmuth, and Kaylee Weeks. Previous alumni scholarship recipients were also in attendance, along with donors who have supported the Kokomo Region Alumni scholarship and the Indiana University Alumni Association Kokomo Region Board of Directors.

Kokomo Region Board President Genie LaLonde provided opening remarks, recognizing current and former alumni board members. Chancellor Mark Canada welcomed alumni, donors, recipients, and their guests to campus, providing campus updates, stressing the importance of alumni, and how they can continue to step forward and serve the university. Alumnus and previous Indiana University Alumni Association scholarship recipient Brian Arwood talked about the impact of receiving scholarships and the countless ways they help students. He also touched on how to give back as an alumnus when that time comes.

It was an honor for me to recognize the recipients in attendance, reading the many accolades they were given from their recommendation letters, as well as information that each recipient provided in their scholarship application. Dada, Pier, Wasmuth, and Weeks discussed their goals and dreams after they graduate, which was inspiring and exciting. Each one of them is a dedicated, driven, and successful student. It will be wonderful to see what they will do and accomplish as alumni.

Benjamin Liechty, B.A. ’06
Director of Alumni Relations
Teachers of Distinction are recognized every other year, with nominations from the community, campus, or local schools. Teachers of Distinction and Early Career recipients are selected by a committee of School of Education faculty and staff. The Lifetime Achievement recipient was selected by faculty and staff, alumni, and distinguished educators from the community.

Those recognized with the Early Career Award were Lela Crawford, B.S. ’18, Tipton Elementary School; Angel McCord, B.S. ’15, Bon Air Middle School; Catherine Murphy, B.S. ’18, Pettit Park Elementary; and Tayler Sampson, B.S. ’21, Green Meadows Elementary.

Vincente Lorenz, B.S., ’21, was honored with the Teacher of Distinction award. Lorenz teaches science at Kokomo High School and is an adjunct instructor for the School of Sciences.

Ann Millikan, B.S., ’59, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award, teaching in the Kokomo School Corporation for 42 years after earning her degree from Indiana University Bloomington. She taught first grade at Bon Air Middle School for 18 years before serving as a program administrator for various programs including Title IV guidance program, the Kokomo Enrichment of Youth (KEY) through Kokomo School Corporation, and Title I.

She continues to contribute to the IU community as a mentor in the School of Education’s Emerging Educator Mentor Network.
MEET
Mark Canada
Indiana University Kokomo’s Eighth Chancellor

Although he became chancellor August 15, he’s no stranger to the campus, having served as executive vice chancellor for academic affairs since 2015.

“I am thrilled to be leading this institution, where I have come to know the faculty, staff, and many of the students over the last seven years,” he said. “This new position gives me the opportunity to work with a number of colleagues outside of the academic sphere, and I’m already working with them to enhance the educational experience in athletics, community engagement, and other parts of the university.”

Canada’s goal is to bring more visibility to IU Kokomo, which he called an extraordinary place.

“It’s a gem, but it’s been a hidden gem, and I want us to no longer be hidden;” he said. “One of my key goals is to elevate our profile, so people all over our region and beyond appreciate us as a destination campus, and a place where they can get an extraordinary educational experience that is also affordable.”

As executive vice chancellor for academic affairs, he received the William M. Pieter Award for Leadership in Civic Affairs from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. It was given in honor of his collaborative work with colleagues to create the Mind Over Chatter curriculum, a program freely available online to teach students how to find, identify, evaluate, and use information found on the internet.

Chancellor Canada came to IU Kokomo with experience as a professor of English, chair of his department, and associate dean and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. He has written extensively on American literature and other subjects.

As chancellor, Canada’s focus is on student success, through the Kokomo Experience and You experiential learning program, projects dedicated to supporting first-generation college students, and promoting education in sustainable living.

Canada was formally installed as chancellor in an October 21 ceremony, led by IU President Pamela Whitten.
TURNING THE KEY

In his previous role, Canada collaborated with faculty and staff to create the campus’s distinctive Kokomo Experience and You (KEY) which has provided hundreds of students with hands-on learning experiences through simulations, retreats, competitions, internships, and educational travel to destinations including Nashville, Yellowstone National Park, Silicon Valley, New York City, Chicago, and more.

With faculty empowered to create their plans, KEY experiences are tied closely to each area of study, so biology students’ experiential learning isn’t providing the same as those in business or education. It also created a sense of ownership in KEY.

“I often refer to myself as the conductor of the orchestra, with the faculty playing the instruments,” Canada said. “Out of that came not only a powerful educational experience, but also a strong sense of collaboration around a single goal.

“What I look forward to doing as chancellor is building on that foundation, so we all can collaborate on additional ways to enhance the experience for our students and community partners. KEY is not just an educational initiative that has transformed our campus and hundreds of students lives. It’s also a model we can use to move forward in a number of other realms.”

CARE FOR FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS

One of the other advantages of KEY, especially on a campus where many students live at home or in apartments rather than residence halls, is that it helps students find people to support them and build community around themselves. This is especially crucial for first-generation students, who may have trouble seeing college as a place where they belong.

“KEY provides an opportunity to travel together and to work in groups,” he said. “All of these experiences help build a sense of belonging.”

Canada’s own experience as a first-generation college student on the Bloomington campus, as well as his career at institutions that serve a great number of first-generation students, informs his mission of making sure IU Kokomo supports them from admission to graduation.

“I believe the success of this country going forward is dependent on how we serve these students, and how we empower them to realize their potential,” he said. “IU helped me realize what I was capable of as a first-generation student. I know many of my colleagues and I embrace the opportunity to do the same for our students.”

Their success is critical, as the good jobs that used to be available without higher education are disappearing because of globalization and automation.

“It’s no longer safe for people to depend on those jobs,” he said. “I would encourage students who have even a glimmer of interest in college to explore it as an option, because it will open doors for them. Getting a college education will prepare them for a multitude of jobs.”

A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Preparing students for careers is important, of course, but they also must be educated as citizens who are critical thinkers, creative problem solvers, and empathetic individuals.

“Sustainability, diversity, inclusion, and citizenship are critical areas of knowledge we would want them to take with them, in addition to whatever expertise they develop in their majors,” he said. “We want them to leave with the skills and knowledge to succeed in their careers, but if that’s all we do, we haven’t succeeded in our vision. We want to produce graduates who can succeed professionally, and as citizens.”

Learn more about Chancellor Canada’s focus on experiential learning, supporting first generation students, and teaching students to live in a sustainable way in the next few pages.
Installation of Chancellor Mark Canada, Ph.D.

OCTOBER 21, 2022

FOR MORE INSTALLATION PHOTOS
SEARCH @IUKOKOMO ON FLICKR
When Andrea Zepeda graduated from Logansport High School, earning a college degree seemed like an impossible dream. As a first-generation college student, navigating the ins and outs of higher education with nobody to ask questions of or set an example was a challenge. Still, she persisted — and 10 years later, she is pursuing a Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling at Indiana University Kokomo, after earning her bachelor’s degree in health sciences in 2017.

“I had to figure out a lot of things on my own,” she said. “I felt like most other students could go to their parents and get help submitting applications or ask questions about what the process looked like. I had a tremendous amount of support from my parents, but they really couldn’t help.”

Her difficulties are common among first-generation college students — those whose parents did not complete a four-year college or university degree. About 34 percent of IU Kokomo’s students fit in this category.

Approximately a third of the faculty, as well as Chancellor Mark Canada, were also first-generation college students, and can empathize with the challenges they face.

“A lot of first-generation students don’t think of college as a place they belong, I want our campus to feel like a place for them, where they will feel nurtured, empowered, and inspired,” said Canada. “Many of them didn’t have the opportunities others did and fall short of what they are capable of doing for themselves and their community.”

Canada grew up in Indianapolis, with parents and high school teachers who expected him to go to college. That gave him an edge in transitioning to IU Bloomington as a first-generation student, because he felt prepared and expected to succeed.

“I felt reasonably comfortable navigating what we sometimes call the ‘hidden curriculum,’ the things you need to know outside the classroom, particularly about planning your major,” he said. “Higher education has a complicated system of requirements that can be intimidating for students, and maybe even impede their progress if they don’t have support from faculty and advisors.”

He commended IU Kokomo’s advisors as key players in guiding all students, but especially first-generation students, as they consider their goals, choose majors, and schedule classes.

Advisors guide major choice, help map class selections

Advisors played a crucial role for Paige Jones, who earned a degree in exercise science in 2019.

“I didn’t know what my major should be, and being a first-generation student, I wasn’t even sure how majors worked,” Jones said. “A lot of it was just trying to find my way through applying, IU Kokomo made it easy. There were a lot of support systems in place on campus that helped.”
Originally a biology major, she credits advisor Becky Lefler for helping identify science as a major to put her on the path to a career in occupational therapy.

“Becky helped me so much, and was always behind me and encouraging me,” Jones said, adding that advisors and faculty members all helped her with graduate school and student loan applications.

Jones also recalled attending a session for incoming freshmen that included a campus tour, meetings with faculty, and programs for students and parents to ask questions.

“I remember that being really helpful,” she said. “The openness of the advisors and the professors on campus was appreciated. They’re the main support system for those of us new to campus who are striving to better ourselves.”

Jones graduates from the Doctor of Occupational Therapy program at IUPUI in May 2023, and looks forward to working in pediatric occupational therapy in Florida.

She appreciates the support she received while earning her degrees and is proud of her success.

“I’m proud to be a first-generation college student now going to graduate school,” Jones said. “It started with me. It started with my passion, and the wonderfulness of my family who gave me support in the background. Once I got to IU Kokomo, they took my hand and led me along. I owe it to both of those supports that I am where I am today.”

Building community supports success

Like Zepeda and Jones, Carson Pocock had to figure out how to navigate college on his own as a first-generation student. Building a community helped him succeed, and he graduated in May 2022 with a degree in mathematics.

He noticed the sense of community when he visited as a recruit for the cross country and track teams, and it was one of the factors in his decision to choose IU Kokomo.

“I remember meeting some of my future teammates, and seeing how close they all seemed,” he said. “I felt like I could instantly fit in. Coach (Josh) Colvin was a big part of why I chose IU Kokomo, and he established a lot of that community feeling.”
Carson Pocock

Study tables got me in the habit of going to the library to study and get homework done.

“Study tables got me in the habit of going to the library to study and get homework done,” he said. “I really enjoyed working in the library. After my freshman year when I wasn’t required to go to study tables, it was nice to already have that routine formed. I gained a sense of direction from my teammates, and there were always upperclassmen who were able to answer questions for me.”

That support was critical when it came to managing his challenging course load as a mathematics major with a business minor. He also joined a study group with classmates, meeting two to three times a week in one of the library study rooms, which helped him create friendships in class.

He also found faculty willing to help, noting that Amelia Tebbe, assistant professor of mathematics, had flexible office hours and was always willing to answer questions outside of class.

A campus job as a math tutor gave him experience that led him to his current job teaching math at Lewis Cass Jr.-Sr. High School. He plans to return to school to add a teaching license to his degree.

“I love it, absolutely love it,” Pocock said. “A lot of my experience working in the math commons was very applicable, and it helped a lot in this career. IU Kokomo set me up well for this job, and a lot of the people I have learned from have helped shape the person I try to be.”

As a high school teacher, Pocock hopes to set an example to his students, and show that a college degree is achievable with hard work.

Setting an example for the next generation

Zepeda said while her parents were proud and supportive of her going to college, their own educational limitations meant they often couldn’t answer questions or help her with challenges.
“For me, college was a dream I wasn’t sure I could ever achieve, because I didn’t have that example,” she said. “I remember when I was my daughter’s age, I lacked so much confidence, and couldn’t even imagine how I would get through high school. I didn’t think I would be able to do college, and now here I am in a master’s program. I don’t think I could have done it without all the help and support I received throughout college.”

She began her degree at another campus, but returned home after giving birth to her daughter. After a semester away, she transferred to IU Kokomo.

“My first few years were challenging until I built some connections,” she said, with faculty members Angela Coppola, associate professor of health sciences, and Jessica Henderson, assistant professor of health sciences.

“They helped me through my undergraduate work, not just with the education side, but also as mentors,” Zepeda said. Henderson, who passed away in 2021, was her internship supervisor and talked through career options. Coppola helped with her graduate school applications and wrote a letter of recommendation to include with her application.

“My first few years were challenging until I built some connections.” — Andrea Zepeda

“Everything Dr. Henderson did for me as an undergraduate prepared me and helped me feel confident to apply for a master’s degree program,” Zepeda said.

Now, as a mother of a daughter, 8, and sons 3 and 18 months old, she’s setting an example for her own children, and is proud she will be able to help them when they graduate from high school.

“They will know I was able to do this hard thing with three kids. I hope I can be an inspiration to them.”

Enrollment

Kokomo Experience and You (KEY) is part of IU Kokomo’s mission to increase educational attainment in north central Indiana. It’s a challenging task, with a recent sharp decline in Indiana high school graduates going to college.

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE) reported in June that the state’s college-going rate experienced its sharpest year-over-year decline in 2020, with only 53 percent of Hoosier high school graduates going to college, a decline of 6 percentage points from the prior year. That’s about 4,000 fewer high school graduates going to college.

ICHE noted previously incremental declines accelerated in 2020, likely due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

How can you help? If you know a student who will soon graduate from high school or someone considering returning as an adult, share your IU Kokomo success story!
“You’re the tree people, right?”

It is a question we have been asked dozens of times at sustainability events, so we don’t shy away from it. Yes, we absolutely “speak for the trees!” It also gives us an opportunity to provide greater detail on what sustainability means at Indiana University Kokomo.

Sustainability presumes that resources are finite and should be used conservatively and wisely, with an eye on long-term priorities and consequences of the ways in which resources are used. It involves environmental, social, and economic elements. In simplest terms, sustainability isn’t just about you and me. It is about our current students, future students, their children and grandchildren, and the community at large. It is a uniting theme that can build bridges between our university and local government, businesses, nonprofits, and initiatives. It involves service-learning, research, and responsible stewardship, investment, and development.

Surveys of college students consistently show that they seek out institutions and employers that take sustainability seriously, and they are eager to learn more about the subject in and out of the classroom. That is why we have paired with a local independent bookstore to give away more than 300 books on a wide array of subjects, including climate change, reducing waste, environmental justice, sustainable farming, gardening, and eating local.

In March, we are taking students on a Kokomo Experience and You trip to Benton County Wind Farm and Green Alternatives, Inc. to learn about renewable energy in central Indiana. During Sustainability Week, we will host speakers from the Wildcat Guardians and Conservation Law Center, displaying environmentally themed artwork by IUK students, and providing opportunities to roll up your sleeves and take part in trainings, demonstrations, and service projects.

We are steadfastly committed to identifying emission reduction opportunities across the IU system, and actively researching ways to bring new initiatives to campus, ranging from hydroponic gardening to electric vehicle charging stations.

We each have a role to play in paying it forward to the next generation. The good news is that the current generation of IU Kokomo students are already doing so by forming the Student Sustainability Council last year and taking on leadership positions. Students Gabbie Orlando, John Wasmuth, Gabe Franks, and Tera Gotschall are setting a great example.

It is an exciting time to be engaged in sustainability efforts at Indiana University Kokomo alongside them, and with so many of you who have supported our collective efforts.

We’re all in this together, Cougars.

“I hope that our alumni will always insist upon the retention of our precious islands of green and serenity — our most important physical asset, transcending even classrooms, libraries, and laboratories in their ability to inspire students to dream long dreams of future usefulness and achievement—dreams that are an important and essential part of the undergraduate college experience.”

—Herman B Wells in an address to IU alumni in 1963
10 Changes Alumni Can Make to Live More Sustainably

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<th>Change</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Eat local</strong></td>
<td>Eating all locally grown food for one year could save the greenhouse gas emissions equivalent of driving 1,000 miles, according to a study by the University of Michigan.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Get a home energy audit</strong></td>
<td>Energy audits are typically offered for little to no cost by local electric utilities. A trained professional comes to your house, performs tests, and identifies trouble areas in your home. This can involve air sealing, insulation, door and window upgrades, and ventilation improvements.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Donate or recycle old electronics</strong></td>
<td>Electronics require a lot of water, energy, and valuable resources when they are manufactured, so their reuse and recycling are particularly critical to environmentally-sound waste management.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Use LED lights</strong></td>
<td>LED lights use 75% less energy and last 25x longer than incandescent lights.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reduce meat consumption</strong></td>
<td>Meat production is inherently environmentally destructive, responsible for massive amounts of water use, pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and habitat destruction. Even a small change in diet can have an impact.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Switch to electric appliances</strong></td>
<td>Through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), household discounts to switch over to electric appliances cover up to 100% of project costs for low-income households and up to 50% of costs for moderate-income households. For remaining costs (and for households who don’t qualify for up-front discounts), the IRA includes major tax credits for electrification and energy efficiency upgrades.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ditch the plastic bottle</strong></td>
<td>The water from your faucet is practically free. City water has won quality tests and taste tests against name-brand water. The extraction of water and production of all those plastic bottles is notoriously harmful to communities and wildlife.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Green energy</strong></td>
<td>Rooftop solar. Battery storage. Heat pumps. Geothermal HVAC. You can get up to 30% off the cost of these energy-efficient systems thanks to the IRA.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Go paperless</strong></td>
<td>Did you know that the average person receives more than 41 pounds of junk mail every year? Opt for paperless billing and statements for credit cards, bank accounts, utilities, and other services. There are also easy ways to get off of senders’ lists for junk mail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Socially responsible investing and banking</strong></td>
<td>Your money can do good in the world if you put it in the right places. By choosing socially responsible bank accounts and investment products, your finances can work for you, for people, and for the planet. Collectively, it can add up to a lot of economic power, and pressure corporations to clean up their act.</td>
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Alyssa Newsome had always dreamed about being a cast member at Walt Disney World Resort.

A Kokomo Experience and You (KEY) trip made that dream feel attainable. Newsome, B.S. ’22, is among the more than 1,600 students who have participated in KEY travel since the program began in 2016. There are nearly 90 KEY experiences currently planned for the 2022-2023 academic year.

While earning her degree in hospitality and tourism management, she and classmates went backstage at the Florida resort, learning how Disney creates magical experiences for its millions of guests each year.

“My KEY trip helped me realize the thing I was dreaming of, and the field I was going into, was the right choice for me,” said Newsome, from Columbia, South Carolina. “When I was on the trip, I saw myself in the people around me, and the people working at the Walt Disney World Resort. Seeing people thrive in the field I was in encouraged me to finish my education so I could do the same thing.”

Travel has been a hallmark of the KEY program since it was founded. The goal is to provide students with real-world experiences, connect them with people, and offer a travel experience within their major. Destinations have included sites significant to World War II in Germany, France, and England; a business incubator in Nashville, Google headquarters in California, Indiana Dunes National Park, ESPN in North Carolina, behind-the-scenes in security at Gainbridge Fieldhouse, and much more.

Disney sets the industry standard in hospitality and tourism, so seeing its behind-the-scenes operations made Newsome more excited to work in the field.
“It gives you an inside view of the real world, and the experiences you can have in the field you want to go into, and the people who already work there,” she said. “It gives you motivation in your career, and to really hone in and make sure you learn as much as you can, to be prepared when you graduate.”

**Another perspective of Disney World**

Walt Disney World has been a popular destination for programs in addition to hospitality and tourism, with students in criminal justice, psychology, business, and sociology applying their own discipline to the parks.

Samuel Garcia Lopez visited with a psychology class, which looked at details park planners employ to evoke specific feelings in visitors and immerse them in storytelling.

“Getting the backstage access IU Kokomo was able to provide helped you understand what’s happening in the park. I was able to use my training to understand how they built these parks to make people feel like they are literally in a different world. They explained all the little details that have such a big impact when you are there as a guest.”

Garcia Lopez, B.S. ’21, said even more important than the academic learning was how the trip expanded his world. He grew up in a family that vacationed by driving to stay with friends, so flying on an airplane and staying in a hotel were new experiences for him.

Because of that trip, he’s traveled more on his own, and encouraged his family to do so as well.

“It changed my perspective on how big the world is,” he said. “It was overwhelming at first, but it made me feel confident I can live within it. I can push for my dreams. My KEY trip broadened my horizons personally and professionally, and it vastly affected my family. They’re traveling more because of me.”

“*It changed my perspective on how big the world is.*”

—Garcia Lopez, B.S. ’21
Learning to be more worldly

KEY travel gave Alex Martakis, B.S. ’21, his first experience going overseas to the United Kingdom with the Innovation Symposium.

“One of the things that comes out of studying abroad or going to an unfamiliar place is that it expands your world view,” he said. “Expanding your scope gives you a new way to look at things, and makes you more empathetic. Opportunities like that make a student more worldly and more understanding of people from different backgrounds.”

A School of Sciences trip to Silicon Valley helped him solidify his choice of major.

“I had a lot of trial and error in college in choosing a major,” he said. “Having that exposure early on as a computer science major gave me confirmation that this is where I fit in. At places like Google, Facebook, and Apple, we spoke to people who work in the industry, and they talked about their day-to-day life and how they got there. As someone new to the major, that was very helpful.”

He also appreciated the exposure to California, which showed him it was someplace he could live. He’s now in a master’s degree program in computer science at the University of California San Diego — one of the top-rated programs in the country.

“My experience helped me get to where I am today,” he said. “That is something I’m very thankful for. Just getting all that exposure early on was very impactful on me.”

Alumni contribute to student experiences

As faculty plan trips, they often look for ways to include alumni to share their experiences with current students.

Doug Showalter, B.A. ’05, shared his experiences in the music industry with 20 students in a School of Business trip to Nashville. Showalter, who earned a degree in communication arts, is a full-time music producer and songwriter. He studied music in California after graduating from IU Kokomo.

It was meaningful to him to speak to students from his alma mater.

“I’m out doing something not really related to what I went to school for, but I think people are more astute these days about the role of higher education,” he said. “The skills I learned earning my degree helped me function in the world so I could think in a macro way and have a career in music.”

“My experience helped me get to where I am today.”

—Alex Martakis, B.S. ’21
“Being asked to speak to students said to me that IU Kokomo felt I was somebody who was a good representation of what a degree from there could accomplish, and how it can play a role in helping you pursue your dreams.”

He invites other alumni to explore sharing their life experiences with current students through the KEY program.

“I encourage them to make space in their lives to share their stories in a very candid and vulnerable way,” he said. “When I was in music school, my favorite part was when teachers would talk about what it’s really like out there. The more access you give students to people in the real world, the better. I put a lot into it, and I felt like I got a lot back from it.”

Looking for a way to stay INVOLVED with IUK?

Consider taking part in our Immersive KEY Gen-Xperience in the spring of 2023.

This semester-long experience will consist of three 90-minute discussions of influential films, music, literature, and culture of the late-80s and early-90s. We’ll wrap up with a trip to Bloomington for the musical Jagged Little Pill, based on Alanis Morissette’s landmark album. Grab your best flannel, lace up your Doc Martens, and select your favorite 90s songs for our roadtrip mixtape (er...Spotify playlist...).

Cost for alumni is $275 (includes a film screening and discussion, a copy of Nick Hornby’s High Fidelity, ticket/bus fare to Jagged Little Pill, and three 90-minute discussions).
Indiana University Kokomo celebrated Homecoming 2022 in October, with the “Let’s Glow Crazy” theme encouraging students, faculty, staff, and alumni to show their school spirit.

The events included a flag football game, a tailgate that brought alumni back to campus, several athletic victories, and the installation of Chancellor Mark Canada.

IU Kokomo also continued its tradition of support for the Family Service Association of Howard County, Inc., with the 2022 Angel Walk, raising more than $15,000 for the domestic violence shelter.

Homecoming athletics started strong October 20 as the women’s soccer team shut out Ohio Christian University with a 3-0 victory. The team also won on the road Saturday, defeating Midway University 4-2.

Festivities continued October 21 with the installation ceremony, and then a tailgate at the Student Activities and Events Center before the women’s volleyball team took on the University of Rio Grande (Ohio). Our Cougars shut out the RedStorm in three sets and took home another shutout victory October 22 against West Virginia University Institute of Technology.
FOR MORE HOMECOMING PHOTOS
SEARCH @IUKOKOMO ON FLICKR
IU Kokomo’s Cougars have led a dynamic season at home and away this year, bringing home wins and setting the bar high for our student athletes.

By their postseason, our women’s soccer team chalked up nine shutout wins, including against IU South Bend at home. Brook Gill, Keely Hoopingarner, Erica Bolinger, and Karlie Kellet have been recognized as RSC Players of the Week, and Hoopingarner set a single season record of 13 goals – before the season even ended.

At this writing, the Cougars defeated the University of Rio Grande (Ohio) 7-1, earning the team its first River States Conference (RSC) championship title and their first berth in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) national championship. We wish them luck.

The Cougar volleyball team has also experienced a fantastic year with a record of 16-4 in their first 20 matches, earning eight Player of the Week awards to Allison Richman, Kaley Lyons, Lexi Broyles, and Alyvia Smith - who earned her 1,000th career dig in the same game as her fifth consecutive Player of the Week Award.

As of this writing, the Cougars took home their fifth-consecutive RSC Championship title, earning their eighth-consecutive spot in the NAIA national championship. We’re excited to cheer them on!

Our men’s golf team placed 2nd of 9 teams at the Asbury Invitational, 2nd of 7 at the IU East Fall Invitational, and 6th of 11 teams at the RSC Fall Preview. At the Golden Bear Classic, the team placed 2nd of 7 teams, with junior Corbin Robinson named the individual winner of the meet. Robinson and teammate Hayden Williamson were named to the Golden Bear Classic All-Tournament team.

Our Cougar women’s golf team placed 4th among 8 participants at the River States Conference Fall Preview; where Brandi Jones finished in first for the second consecutive year, taking home individual honors. Jones won two RSC Player of the Week awards by the time of this writing.

The women’s golf team also finished 5th of 8 at the Battle at Blackthorn, 4th of 5 at the Eagle Glen Invitational, and 10th of 14 at the Players Club Invitational.

The men’s cross country team finished their season with a second-place finish in the RSC meet. Junior Luis Saldana finished in sixth, punching his ticket to the NAIA Cross Country Championships for a second straight year.

Our women’s cross country team finished in third at the RSC meet, where senior Casey Pfefferkorn finished in fourth, advancing to the NAIA championships for the first time in her career.

Our women’s tennis team kicked off their season with a 2-3 start, winning back-to-back meetings against Trine and Goshen. The team also participated in the RSC Invite, claiming wins at the #4 and #6 singles flights thanks to Maria Oliveria and Andrea Saylor.

The IU Kokomo athletics teams started their fall seasons off strong, and are keeping the momentum into the end of their seasons. We encourage you to join us in the Student Activities and Events Center to cheer on our women’s and men’s basketball teams.

WANTING TO GET ACTIVE?

The Milt and Jean Cole Family Wellness and Fitness Center inside the Kelley Student Center has the classes, weights, ellipticals, treadmills, and tools you need to get started! Come by and check us out, and secure your membership when you’re ready to join!

For more information, please contact the Cole Fitness Center by email, colefit@iuk.edu or by phone, 765-455-9419.

STAY UP-TO-DATE ON ALL THINGS ATHLETICS AT IUKCOUGARS.COM
THANK A DONOR DAY

Donors and alumni play a vital part in everything we do at IU Kokomo. Showing appreciation to these individuals is something we all can support. On October 6, students were encouraged to express their gratitude to donors on Thank a Donor Day. They wrote thank you notes, participated in thank you videos, and took photos to share the impact of what donors continue to make possible for students, faculty, staff, and our campus community. From Kokomo Experience and You (KEY) trips, to international travel opportunities, scholarships, the Student Activities and Events Center and more, many students expressed their thanks for the generosity of our donors. The cards and videos we received will be distributed to our supporters. To everyone who advocates for IU Kokomo through their time, talent, and treasure, we say a heartfelt thank you!
WE'RE HERE BECAUSE WE UNDERSTAND

It’s hard to concentrate on writing a history research paper, jot down notes for an upcoming debate, or prepare for clinicals when you’re hungry. And it’s hard to turn down extra shifts at work, even if it means taking time away from studying, when it could make the difference between having food on your table or not.

Some of our students face this challenge every day, which is why IU Kokomo opened the Cougar Cupboard to combat food insecurity.

The pantry provides non-perishable food items, hygiene products, and school supplies for students and employees, at no charge.

It takes a community to make this happen, as the Cupboard relies on donations — including food items and money — to keep the shelves stocked.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

See a complete list of items needed, or make a financial contribution.