

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Media Contact –Danielle Rush**

**April 30, 2012**

Communications Specialist  
2300 S. Washington Street  
Kokomo, IN 46904-9003  
(765) 455-9414  
[darush@iuk.edu](mailto:darush@iuk.edu)

### **Commencement to be first in new pavilion**

**KOKOMO, Ind.** — Indiana University Kokomo’s Class of 2012 will make history Tuesday, May 8, as the first class to graduate in the campus’ new pavilion.

Chancellor Michael Harris said the pavilion, recently built east of Hunt Hall, provides a permanent home for outdoor Commencement and a venue for community events.

“Our new pavilion is another step toward our goal of becoming a world-class regional campus,” Harris said. “It is a wonderful place to honor our graduates at Commencement, and our campus and community will benefit from it for years to come. We thank President Michael McRobbie for making this possible.”

It also enhances the campus beautification Harris has championed for nearly two years. Earlier efforts have included improved landscaping, addition of park benches and picnic tables in the quad, and installation of uniform signage campus-wide.

John Sarber, IU director of construction management, plans to make the pavilion even more beautiful by planting additional trees to create a more intimate setting.

“We are one of only two regional campuses to have outdoor Commencement, and we always had temporary rental stages. The pavilion gives us a place not only for graduation, but for events throughout the year,” Sarber said.

The pavilion is 40 feet wide and 30 feet deep, with glued laminated timber beams soaring overhead. It was prefabricated by Coverworx Recreational Architecture, and constructed onsite by R.L. Turner Corp. Access is available to the stage by stairs or a ramp. It has general and individual performance lighting, making it appropriate for large or small events, Sarber said.

“This stage works for large group or solo performances,” he said. “It is going to be a flexible space we can use for many events, such as concerts and outdoor movies. Our students and the community will really enjoy this wonderful venue.”

*Indiana University Kokomo serves north central Indiana.*

**-END-**