

IU Kokomo Focuses On Equipping New High-Tech Science Facility

In its most significant fundraising campaign in nearly a decade, IU Kokomo is committed to raising \$350,000 for high-tech equipment and instrumentation for its new, state-of-the-art Science and Physical Facilities Building.



Dr. Christian Chauret (left), assistant professor of microbiology, and Dr. Robert Roales (right), chair of natural sciences and assistant dean of allied health sciences, at the new IUK science building.

IU Kokomo's longstanding tradition of excellence in science education continues this fall with the opening of a new \$13 million Science and Physical Facilities Building. The building alone is spectacular. "The architecture makes science dramatic," explains Professor Robert Roales, chair of natural sciences and assistant dean of allied health sciences: "Labs can be seen from the outside, and inside the building has magnificent views. We wanted to create a space that was inviting and that would encourage people to stay in the building."

Nearly a year ago, the campus embarked on an ambitious campaign to provide the new building with the latest in high-tech equipment and instrumentation. With a goal of \$350,000, it's IU Kokomo's most significant fundraising effort in nearly a decade.

According to Nancy Dailey, IU Kokomo's vice chancellor for external relations, more than \$100,000 has already been raised. Companies in the campus' expansive eleven-county service territory, including Delphi Delco Electronics, Kokomo Gas and Fuel, Pioneer Seed and GenCorp Foundation, are leading local support for the project with major contributions.

"As evidenced by past success with our annual campaign, north central Indiana is grateful to have IU Kokomo in its backyard," Dailey said. "People in our region with loyalties to both IU and Purdue have historically extended their support to this campus as well, and are willing to support an educational cause that's close to home."

With its "bricks and mortar" funded by the state legislature, IU Kokomo's state-of-the-art facility includes a large technology-enhanced classroom/lecture hall, more than a dozen laboratories, prep facilities with a cold room for experiment preparations, and a plant growth chamber.

"Science is definitely one of our greatest pockets of strength here," said Dailey. "With our faculty's strong credentials and tremendous capabilities in teaching and research, we believe the time is right to focus on science and put our support behind this new facility."

The new science building is slated to welcome its first students in August and will be officially dedicated on September 28th.

Other campus development priorities

In addition to its science building campaign, IU Kokomo's funding priorities for 2001-2002 include increasing financial support for the campus' scholarship and internship programs. Unrestricted gifts to help meet a variety of campus needs are critical as well.

- On September 22nd, the campus will host its annual gala event with a goal of raising \$50,000 for scholarships. IU Kokomo has set its sights on doubling its current \$1.5 million scholarship endowment within the next several years.
- Creating new student internships is also on the campus' list of significant priorities. IU Kokomo will begin cultivating individual and corporate

donors this year to fund these new learning and career development opportunities for students.

- The Office of External Affairs has also impaneled a new Development Advisory Committee to strategize and spearhead long-range development planning.

"IU Kokomo has always been realistic in setting its fundraising goals," Dailey said. "Over the next decade, we'll be taking a close look at opportunities to facilitate sound campus-wide growth."

—by Jill Meadows