

Elementary Ed Articulation Agreement Reached with IVY Tech

Indiana University and Ivy Tech Community College announced a new pathway to a teaching career through articulation agreements that will allow Ivy Tech education students to transfer credits towards an IU degree.

These transfer agreements make it possible for students who complete an approved Associate of Science in Elementary Education degree at any Ivy Tech campus to transfer credits toward

Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education degrees offered at all IU campuses. IU President Michael McRobbie and Ivy Tech President Tom Snyder joined other campus leaders in the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis February 10 to celebrate the signing of the final agreement that will make system-wide articulation possible.



McRobbie and Snyder at Signing

Latino Initiative to bring together partners for growing community

An event featuring a nationally-renowned scholar on Latino educational issues is set for next month in Indianapolis as part of the IU School of Education at IUPUI's "Latino Initiative." Angela Valenzuela, director of the University of Texas Center for Education Policy, will keynote an April 30 event (place and time are still to be determined). Valenzuela is professor in both the Cultural Studies in Education Program within the Department of Curriculum & Instruction and the Educational Policy and Planning Program within the Department of Educational Administration at the University of Texas at Austin.

Faculty are inviting members of organizations around Indianapolis who work with Latino youth to convene for discussion about practices and policies. The meeting is intended to be the start of a continuing effort bringing together university and community partners.

"It's really just more about part of doing research and cultivating school-university partnerships in a city like Indianapolis and in a state like Indiana where the Latino community is

continuing to grow," Samantha Bartholomew, assistant professor of educational leadership and policy studies said of starting the project.

Co-organizer Monica Medina, lecturer in teacher education, said she has benefited from university partnerships when she was leading a community organization. "Working with a community that has access to the population and bringing people from the university to learn about the community but at the same time helping them I think is very beneficial," Medina said.

New Incentive for Math and Science Credentials and License

Chemistry and math majors now have a more efficient path to earning both a master's degree in education and teacher licensure under a new agreement between the Indiana University College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Education. IU-Bloomington has approved a proposal for a coordinated program allowing students to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in math or chemistry and a Master of Science in Secondary Education while also becoming licensed to teach in a five-year program. The program will expand routes to the preparation of teachers with a solid background in their content area.

"The School of Education and the College have had a long history of collaboration to prepare excellent teachers," said Dean of Education Gerardo Gonzalez. "This program builds on that collaboration to provide another option for students in math and science."

To enter the program, majors in chemistry and math apply for the master's in Secondary Education during the fall semester of their senior year. If admitted, selected spring coursework would count toward both the completion of their undergraduate degree and the beginning of their master's. Upon completing 47 hours of Education coursework including student teaching, graduates could earn a bachelor's and master's in 5 years and earn teacher licensure.

The program removes a disincentive for math and science students to seek a teaching license, according to Bob Sherwood, Associate Dean for Research and professor of science education. "We're hopeful that they'll say 'Hey, mom and dad, if I go an extra year, I can get my master's degree and a teaching license,'" Sherwood said. He added that the program should help the School produce more math and science teachers.

Thai Scholars Visit to Improve Science Education Skills

The IU School of Education has been hosting two scholars from Thailand this semester who are hoping to add to their experience as science researchers by learning science education skills from faculty in Indianapolis. Namkang Sriwattanothai and Nantawan Nantawanit are each Ph.D. students at Mahidol University in Bangkok. Charlie Barman, professor of science and environmental education and Director of the Urban Center for the Advancement of STEM Education is hosting the visitors.

Nantawanit said she is conducting research, focusing on alternatives to chemicals for protecting agriculture. Particularly, Sriwattanothai is hoping to learn more about methods to promote student scientific thinking. “We need to promote the student who knows about scientific literacy and prepare the student to be a person who can think critically about real world problems,” she said.

“We’ll use the educational background to help develop some lesson plans to fit student learning,” said Nantawanit. “We need to know first how they learn and then how to keep them learning better with an alternative approach, not the traditional way.” Sriwattanothai’s research focusing on the molecular approach to evolution might well have resulted in a remarkable finding. She’s still seeking evidence to support it, but she might have actually found a new species while conducting her work.



Sriwattanothai and Nantawanit

Become a Fan of the School of Education

The School now has a page on Facebook, featuring news, links, event information, and high-quality video about the IU School of Education. If you have a Facebook account, search for [Indiana University School of Education](#) and click to become a “fan.” You’ll receive updates when we add information

Fundraiser Helps Local Student

The IU School of Education’s “Partners in Education” committee of the Staff Council helped raise more than \$800 during a pizza fundraiser at the Wright Education building on March 3. Carlos Vidaurri, a student at Jackson Creek Middle School who participated in the Partners in Education program, is battling cancer. IU soccer coach Mike Freitag joined School faculty and staff for the event.



Carlos with Coach Freitag

Faculty Receive Honors

Kuh receives Outstanding Service Award

The Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) has awarded the Allen P. Splete Outstanding Service Award to George Kuh, Chancellor’s Professor of Higher Education and director of the Center for Postsecondary Research at the IU School of Education. The CIC presented Kuh with the award during its annual Presidents Institute, held in Bonita Springs, Fla., on Jan. 6.

“George Kuh is a scholar who has accomplished a feat previously thought to be impossible,” said CIC President Richard Elkman, “designing an instrument to assess student learning and engagement in the academic, social, and cultural opportunities offered by our colleges.” Kuh created the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and other related surveys. NSSE started examining factors related to successful student engagement in 1997. It’s now used by more than 1,300 institutions, with 380,000 students in four-year colleges and universities completing the survey in 2008.

Torres Honored for Research

The National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) awarded Vasti Torres, associate professor of higher education and student affairs, with its “Outstanding Contribution to Literature or Research” award on March 10. The organization presented the honor during the 2009 NASPA Annual Conference in Seattle.

NASPA noted Torres’ pioneering research on Latino/a students, which has resulted in two books, a number of book chapters, and twenty journal articles. The award honors those who have produced literature and research well-used by student affairs practitioners across the country.

“It is very clear to me that Dr. Vasti Torres meets the qualifications of this award, but more importantly, Vasti meets the spirit of this award,” wrote Janet E. Walbert, vice president for student affairs at Arcadia University and former NASPA president, in a nominating letter.

Sexton Heads National Organization

Tom Sexton, Professor of Counseling and Educational Psychology and the Director of the Center for Adolescent and Family Studies, took over as the Society for Family Psychology president during its meeting in early February. In his role as president, Sexton will oversee initiatives for the organization and guide policy over the next year. Sexton said that establishing a research clearinghouse of practice-based evidence and information is the priority for his tenure.

“One of the big issues in family psychology is that there is a real science-practice gap,” Sexton said. “It’s the division between those two things that creates great anxiety.”