

# IPFW – funneling Big Ten strengths to northeast Indiana

Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW), a joint campus of two internationally recognized Big Ten schools, has the broadest scope of programs of all institutions of higher learning in northeast Indiana, offering more than 190 degree and certificate options at its 12,000-student campus. It has also become a valued resource and partner for area businesses.

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*Michael A. Wartell, IPFW chancellor*

“IPFW sees its mission beyond education and research as supporting northeast Indiana whether it is intellectually, culturally or with economic development,” says Chancellor Michael A. Wartell. “When a university becomes integral to the community in this way, mutual support grows and both the community and the university become stronger as a result. In all great cities, universities are a part of the fabric of that community. That’s what we’re trying to do in northeast Indiana, and I think we’re succeeding.”

In January, IPFW, Purdue University, Indiana University (IU) and the Northeast Indiana Corporate Council collaborated to create the position of director of university engagement to facilitate technology transfer, innovative business development and economic growth in the region.

“The engagement office is a good example of university partnership to drive economic development across a variety of industries within the geographic area of northeast Indiana,” says Director Sean Ryan. “I serve to facilitate partnerships for research, technology transfer, education and training opportunities, technical assistance and student placement. I serve all types of industries in northeast Indiana,

including life sciences, with the resources of IPFW, IU and Purdue.”

Ryan says he deals with everything from startup companies to multibillion-dollar corporations, though most are in the start-up to midsize range. In the first nine months of its operation the office has interacted with more than 125 businesses, providing everything from training and career fairs to licensing technology for a new business startup.

“If you think the university can help, and you don’t know who else to ask, call me,” he says.

In March, IPFW dedicated a new Center for Industrial Innovation and Design (CIID) to provide help to local businesses who have industrial or design problems and give IPFW students real-world experiences.

A cross-disciplinary collaboration between the schools of Engineering, Technology and Computer Science (ETCS), and Visual and Performing Arts, and the Northeast Indiana Innovation Center (NIIC), the center provides assistance in product development areas such as three-dimensional modeling, CAD, rapid prototyping, fabrication and testing, real-time rendering, and package and Web design, services many small businesses might not be able to afford on their own. ■

## In this article:

### COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES

Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne  
www.ipfw.edu

Indiana University  
www.indiana.edu

Purdue University  
www.purdue.edu

### INCUBATORS

Northeast Indiana Innovation Center  
www.niic.net