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## **Ivy Tech Southern Indiana breaks ground on \$20 million capital project**

Ivy Tech Community College Southern Indiana kicked off construction today on a long-anticipated \$20 million capital project with a well-attended groundbreaking on its campus in Sellersburg.

The college also announced a significant gift that will greatly aid in purchasing equipment and other needed items for the new building and the renovated main campus building. The Paul Ogle Foundation has agreed to give \$1 million to the Ivy Tech Foundation, with the stipulation that it be used for projects on the Southern Indiana campus. The gift leads the way in the campus' capital campaign.

"Ivy Tech continues to significantly improve the lives of people who live and work in Southern Indiana," said Kent Lanum, Executive Director of the Paul Ogle Foundation. "Students from a variety of backgrounds and from a wide section of Indiana come to the campus to further their education and make a positive contribution to society. The Foundation is happy to continue to support Ivy Tech in its mission."

The college announced another significant gift that will enable one of the new building's most interesting features: a mock courtroom for use by Ivy Tech's two-year-old criminal justice program. The mock court room will be named for Judge Carlton Sanders and his wife, Sue Sanders, of Lanesville. Judge Sanders is a retired Harrison County Superior Court Judge. The Sanders donated \$60,000 to create the space, which will help students understand the inner workings of the court system.

"We are happy to create an environment that will help criminal justice students better prepare for their future experiences in the court system," said Judge Sanders. "Proper education and preparation is crucial for future law enforcement officers, and this court room is an innovative way to provide an enriched educational experience."

The project includes a new 78,500 square foot building and interior and exterior renovation of the current main campus facility. The Ogle Virtual Library will be expanded by 1,000 square feet, and two campus quads will increase park-like green space. The planned expansion will help Ivy Tech meet a drastic increase in enrollment demands. In the Fall of 2009, enrollment was 4,911, up nearly 15 percent from 4,281 in the fall of 2008.

"This project is the result of many years of hard work on the part of our staff here in Sellersburg and in our central office in Indianapolis," said Dr. Rita Hudson Shourds, Chancellor of Ivy Tech Southern Indiana. "I am grateful for the support and dedication of everyone who worked to create the campus' design and secure the funding so the project could go forward, particularly our legislative delegation and local community leaders. This capital project is a re-envisioning of our entire campus, a transformation that addresses the critical need for additional classrooms and labs with the desire to create a true college campus experience for our students."

Construction officially began with a new parking lot created this past summer. Other work to prepare the property for the new building followed. The project team includes Ivy Tech Southern Indiana, MSKTD & Associates Inc. and GDH

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LLC. Site work for the project was completed by MAC Construction & Excavating Inc. and Gohman Asphalt and Construction Inc., and Nading Mechanical Inc.

Norman E. "Ned" Pfau Jr., a member of the statewide Board of Trustees for Ivy Tech, said the project is crucial for Southern Indiana. "Ivy Tech is an economic driver for the community," Pfau said. "The school provides an important piece of the educational puzzle in Southern Indiana, and having adequate space available and a more campus-like setting is vital for the success of the students. This capital project will help meet that need."

**About Ivy Tech**

Ivy Tech Community College is the state's largest public post-secondary institution and the nation's largest singly-accredited statewide community college system with more than 120,000 students enrolled annually. Ivy Tech has campuses throughout Indiana. It serves as the state's engine of workforce development, offering affordable degree programs and training that are aligned with the needs of its community along with courses and programs that transfer to other colleges and universities in Indiana. It is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association.