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## **Graduation date, speaker set at Ivy Tech Community College**

Ivy Tech Community College Southern Indiana will graduate its largest class ever when it holds its 37th commencement ceremony on Friday, May 9 at 7 p.m. The event will take place at Northside Christian Church located on Charlestown Road in New Albany. So far in 2008, 441 students have applied to graduate from the college, which is located in Sellersburg. This is up from last year's total of 361.

"Our campus is growing as more people in Southern Indiana discover what a great value they can receive at Ivy Tech for their educational dollar," says Chancellor Dr. Rita Hudson Shourds. "Every year, we set new enrollment records, and we're excited to be able to help so many people improve their lives and earning potential through education."

Congressman Baron Hill will serve as the featured speaker. Student Leslie Williams, who is earning two certificates from Ivy Tech, will serve as the student speaker. Her certificates are in phlebotomy and insurance coding. Williams plans to continue her education at Ivy Tech upon earning her certificates. She will speak on the importance of leadership.

"What's really special about Leslie is how much she has embraced education as an interactive experience," Shourds says. "She has absorbed much of what she's learned in the classroom, but she's also taken advantage of many extracurricular activities on campus. And she truly loves Ivy Tech. We're looking forward to hearing what she has to say at graduation."

Awards will also be given at graduation. Kerri Cokeley will receive the Alumni of the Year award for her outstanding contributions to Ivy Tech during her time on campus. Cokeley, a native of Jeffersonville, works for Metro United Way and is very active in civic causes. She will also be honored May 17 as the Emerging Woman Philanthropist of the Year in Clark County by the Community Foundation of Southern Indiana.

Ivy Tech's Friend of the College Award will be presented to the Paul W. Ogle Foundation Inc. The Foundation has as one of its chief priorities helping to fund higher education. Ivy Tech's new library was created with funding from the Foundation. The Ogle Foundation has assisted us with a campus beautification project, and also generously funded scholarships to help meet the educational needs of

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students. It was incorporated as an Indiana non-profit corporation in 1979. The Foundation's founder and original benefactor was Paul W. Ogle, who lived in Clark County, Indiana.

“The contributions made by the Ogle Foundation to Ivy Tech and our community at large are significant,” Shourds says. “Paul Ogle’s legacy has been preserved through the many gifts of the Foundation to organizations in Southern Indiana who are striving to improve the quality of life for area residents. We are so pleased and thankful to be one of the beneficiaries of the Foundation’s generosity.” For more information about Ivy Tech’s graduation, call the college at (812) 246-3301.

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