IU Northwest technology upgrades rival those of best-wired institutions

Improvements include 60 additional computers and 20 wired work stations

When it comes to computers, a common perception is that the latest technology is outdated almost as soon as it is purchased and installed.

Despite this notion, Indiana University Northwest has managed to keep pace with the country’s best-wired institutions, including IU Bloomington, said Mark Uncapher, director of Microcomputer Support.

The most notable addition to the IU Northwest campus computing experience, he said, is the Marram Hall Student Technology Center, which opened its doors to students the first week of the Fall 2012 semester.

“Marram 103 represents the IU Northwest commitment to providing environments and technology that support student success, which is a campus primary mission,” Uncapher said. “This new space incorporates the latest in room design and technology to provide inviting, effective study space.”

Modern computing

The newly renovated area looks nothing like a traditional computer lab. Gone are the rows upon rows of big, clunky computers that hummed along while users bumped elbows with their neighbors. The bulky monitors and towers that used to clutter university computer labs seem to be going the way of the pay phone.

The Marram center has sleek, all-in-one monitors with touch screens and a selection of collaborative work stations with 60-inch monitors and cordless keyboards and mice. It’s easy for students to tote along their own technology; the center furnishes students with the ability to plug in their devices just about anywhere and even use them in conjunction with others to share information easily.

Anticipating future changes in the technology landscape, the lab was designed to grow with the times. The furniture and adaptable space in the Marram lab and other common areas are designed to accommodate students who bring their own devices as well as those who use campus machines. Lab assistants will have every cable and piece of auxiliary equipment a student might need to wire up.

In total, the campus has upgraded more than 100 computers for student use and added 60 computers and 20 work stations in which students can use their own laptop computers or other devices.

**Working with large, complex multi-media files? No problem!**

The advanced multi-media lab adjacent to the Little RedHawk Café on the library’s first floor is the place to work on multi-media presentations that involve complex graphics, audio files and more.

The lab’s four high-powered computers, complete with Blu-Ray players and burners, media production tools, and superior processors enable students to work with complex files with ease – and speed. Heavy lifting - like analyzing statistical databases - can be done here in a fraction of the time.

“On a computer in an ordinary lab, it could take an hour to render a scene. In here, it can take as little as 15 to 20 seconds,” Uncapher pointed out. “Ordinarily, it might take 15 to 20 minutes to run through data. In this lab, it would only take a minute.”
The latest instructional tools help faculty teach and students learn

Coined the "Next Generation Classroom," a special experimental classroom in Hawthorn Hall contains all of the latest instructional tools, enabling faculty to explore methods to enhance their instruction. From capturing entire lectures and transferring them to computer files, to the most advanced video conferencing capabilities, the room serves as a training ground for faculty and staff as well as a place where instructors can bring their students for high-tech collaborative projects. All the files created with the technology can be placed online for student access at any time from anywhere.

"Using the 'Next Generation Classroom' as an experimental space provides faculty members with opportunities to creatively incorporate technology into their curricula," said Paul Sharpe, director of Instructional Media Services.

Sharpe said that, in addition to the variety of advanced technologies being tested in the space, his team is currently working with Microsoft to evaluate the effective use of Xbox Kinect in a collaborative learning environment, both virtually and in classroom experiences.

“The new Marram Student Technology Center represents the commitment to providing contemporary technology in open, flexible learning spaces.” - Beth Van Gordon

Need quiet? A space to collaborate? There is a place in the library for you.

All three floors of the Anderson Library Conference Center offer plenty of computer access and comfortable places to spread out and plug in your own devices. Choose between quiet places and spaces for collaborative and creative work with classmates.

Laptop computers may be checked out at the Information Commons, located on the first floor of the library, which also contains 67 computer stations for student use, as well as 16 computers where food and drink can be enjoyed while computing at the Cyber-Café.

The first floor also houses an adaptive technology room to accommodate those with special learning needs.

The second floor is a collaboration area with 20 computers. The third floor is a quiet zone with 37 computers. This new space adds 20 computers to the library computer areas, along with 20 open cubicles with power boxes to bring your own technology.

Anyone with a university ID and login information is welcome to use the computers on campus.

Beth Van Gordon, Chief Information Officer for IU Northwest, IU South Bend and IU Kokomo, said that a primary goal of IU Northwest’s University Information Technology Services is to provide technology environments that enrich students’ academic lives.

“The new Marram Student Technology Center represents the commitment to providing contemporary technology in open, flexible learning spaces,” Van Gordon said. “The new facility in Marram 103, and the experimental classroom in Hawthorn 329, promote and address the strategic commitment of the University’s IT Strategic Plan, ‘Empowering People.’ These two facilities promote innovative, engaging learning experiences that involve IT tools for creating content, for expressing viewpoints, for virtualizing experiences, and for collaborating.”
Indiana University Northwest’s Tamarack Hall, the campus’s first building and legendary home to one of the area’s finest theatrical venues, is now officially history.

Demolition crews razed the flood-damaged building last spring. By June, there was nothing left but memories, and a vacant lot.

Phase II of the demolition -- site restoration -- is in full swing, according to Vice Chancellor for Administration Joseph Pellicciotti. Passersby will notice a developing lawn, and crews soon will begin the beautification process by laying sidewalks, planting trees and shrubs, and installing lights and emergency phones.

Now, the looming question is, “What will become of the Tamarack space?” The campus will be involved in that decision-making process, according to IU Northwest Chancellor William J. Lowe.

Campus discussions, he said, could likely begin with a presentation already brought forth by two students, from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA), who developed a green space proposal as part of a class project for their Introduction to Environmental Science course.

“I think everyone who has seen it cannot help but be impressed by the good work they did to make it a pleasant but also very environmentally sustainable space for us going forward.”

- Chancellor William J. Lowe

Melissa Grish and Kelly Clemens researched ecosystems and learned that the area where Tamarack stood is a natural wetland and prone to flooding. They learned about plants that survive best in that ecosystem.

At an event commemorating Tamarack Hall in May, when dignitaries opened a 54-year-old time capsule from the building’s cornerstone, the students unveiled their vision for what the space could become. Their carefully thought-out plan included a pavilion, native plants that thrive in the area, and a dry stream, which, they said, is an attractive way to control the flow of water in a landscape.

“Since this space sits within the flood plain of the Little Calumet River, it is only a matter of time before the next flood,” Clemens said. “We feel it is very important for IU Northwest to design a space that can withstand a flood.”

Lowe praised the students’ project, calling it “very thorough and very professionally done.”

“I think everyone who has seen it cannot help but be impressed by the good work they did to make it a pleasant but also very environmentally sustainable space for us going forward,” Lowe said.

The Chancellor said that the proposal serves as a framework to begin the campus conversations “not only because it is so well done, but because it does not rule out other ideas.”

Lowe cited public art as one example, noting that the space once occupied by Tamarack Hall consists of more than one acre.

As a Computer Information Systems major, Grish brought her computer savvy to the project and digitally created the green space.

“I took measurements and was able to visually make a green space for everyone to walk through,” Grish explained. “They were able to see our vision come to life.”

Clemens said that she and Grish spent weeks researching and brainstorming ideas for a proposal that would simultaneously benefit the campus community and the environment.

“We felt it was a necessity to keep the space as natural as possible,” Clemens said. “We feel that by incorporating a green space on campus, IU Northwest will be at the forefront of setting a standard for other colleges in the area.”

“It would be such a rewarding feeling to have our thoughts become a reality,” she added.
Twenty years have passed, and the Northwest Indiana economy is seeing about the same level of economic activity as it did in 1992. And, there are no indications of a rapid turnaround in the next few months.

That information comes courtesy of an index created by two Indiana University Northwest professors from the School of Business and Economics: Professor of Finance Bala Arshanapalli, Ph.D., and Professor Emeritus of Economics Don Coffin, Ph.D.

“After a significant growth in the local economy of the 1990s, the region’s growth has been stagnant the last decade,” said Arshanapalli, who is the Gallagher-Mills Chair of Business at IU Northwest.

He and Coffin have spent the past year developing the Northwest Indiana Index, a research project that accurately gauges the dynamics of the region’s economy while at the same time estimating the probability of an upcoming change in local economic activity.

The index has two components: the Northwest Indiana Coincident Index, which provides a monthly snapshot of the region’s progress; and the Northwest Indiana Leading Index, which forecasts how the Coincident Index will change in the next six months.

“This data should be particularly interesting to public officials, as well as those in banking and real estate,” Coffin said. “Or, really anyone interested in trends in local economic development.”

Student Assistance

A Lilly Sustaining Grant Fellowship funded the research and provided Arshanapalli and Coffin with the assistance of Vicki Urbanik, a student in the business school’s post-baccalaureate certificate program in accounting.

Urbanik has assisted the team by researching the coincident and leading economic indicators that have been developed by other states and regions to collect comparable data.

“Most states, including Indiana, have developed indicators representative of their statewide economies,” Urbanik said. “But it’s far less common for regions, like Northwest Indiana, to have such an index.

“In my opinion, this project will help Northwest Indiana stand out as a leader in planning for a more prosperous economy. As a lifelong Northwest Indiana resident who is very hopeful about our region’s economic future, I was thrilled to be given a chance to participate in this work,” she said.

The Past

The Northwest Indiana Index measures economic data from January 1992 onward. Arshanapalli and Coffin noted two important findings when reviewing data from the last 20 years. First, the region’s economy began slowing down in early 2000, much earlier than the nation’s economy. As a result, the region experienced a deeper and longer-lasting recession than the U.S. economy.

Additionally, the timing of the region’s last downturn was roughly similar to that of the nation’s downturn. Locally, that slowdown began in May 2008 and lasted through May 2009.

The Future

Future data mined from the Leading Index will serve as a timely and useful signal of shifts in business cycle phases and will help to predict impending expansion or contraction of the local economy.

Coffin explained that their key set of leading economic variables should produce a negative reading prior to the onset of a recession and vice-versa for any uptick in the economy.

“In general, three consecutive monthly drops in the Northwest Indiana Leading Index would signal an upcoming recession. Three straight increases would signal an expansion,” Coffin said.

Urbanik said she views any monthly drops as an opportunity, not a threat.

“The Northwest Indiana Index data shows some serious challenges,” Urbanik said. “But as I’ve learned both from being a student and from personal experiences, even seemingly insurmountable problems present an opportunity – the opportunity to tap into existing resources to find long-lasting solutions.

“The key for all of us who live, work and study in Northwest Indiana is to use our ingenuity and creativity to harness the incredible strengths in our region for our long-term sustainability.”

Through a partnership with The Times of Northwest Indiana, the Northwest Indiana Index will be updated monthly and published on their website at: http://www.nwitimes.com/business/special-section/index/
When Vickie Casanova states, “There is a world-class education at Indiana University Northwest,” she speaks from considerable academic experience.

The Oak Park, Ill. resident holds a bachelor’s degree and master’s of business administration (MBA) degree from IU Bloomington as well as a master’s degree in teaching from Columbia College in Chicago. In 2012, she added an IU Northwest post-baccalaureate certificate in urban studies and community development to her collection of college degrees.

Casanova’s pursuit of higher education is still going strong. Recently, she enrolled in an online doctoral program, and she has dreams of teaching at the university level.

Clearly, Casanova values lifelong learning. In fact, she spends much of her time today working to instill the value of education in youth.

A self-employed arts educator and a performing artist for the past 15 years, Casanova works with underserved youth, most notably at After School Matters, an award-winning program for urban youth in Chicago inner-city high schools to give them access to professionals and a range of careers as well as to help them develop their skills in the arts.

“Because I had such a rich experience as a young person, as a high school student, in dance and the arts, I believe so strongly that it is critical for us to make those same experiences available to our young people,” Casanova said.

Casanova’s early education led her to a career as an advertising agency executive in which she held jobs in both Indianapolis and Chicago. In the midst of her fast-paced career, Casanova remained committed to dance. Dance is a thread that runs through Casanova’s entire fascinating journey, from childhood dance class, to the Indianapolis Colts as a cheerleader, to the African-American Dance Company at IU Bloomington, to a performer of the African Diaspora.

“The professors and the school community just had a lot of interest in working together to make sure they are doing some practical things that also connect people with each other.”

Casanova has raised four children and spent the majority of her parenting years as a single mother. She spent much time when her children were young working with teachers to help them incorporate the arts into their lesson plans.

“Being a mother all my adult life has kept me focused,” she said.

Her own children, as well as the many others she influences daily, receive the message that has been Casanova’s life’s philosophy: “A lot of wonderful experiences can happen if you follow your dreams and keep working hard.”

“Casanova traveled across the state line and commuted to IU Northwest to earn the post-baccalaureate certificate in urban studies and community development, because of its relevance to her work and her passion.

Today, she commits herself full-time to consulting in arts education and working to revitalize communities.

“The post-baccalaureate certificate in urban studies and community development seemed like it was a good match for me,” she said. “The courses are really very solid, very strong.

With her academic background, Casanova is a firm believer that multicultural arts do not have to be separate from academics.

“We really have a wonderful opportunity to make sure we are engaging people culturally,” she said.

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Gus Morquecho (B.S., Criminal Justice, 2011) earned a tuition waiver for The John Marshall Law School in Chicago thanks to his participation in the Ninth Annual National Undergraduate Diversity Mock Trial Competition. According to an article posted on PRWeb.com, 60 students from 20 colleges and universities competed for the waivers in the competition, in which they worked together to present a mock trial over two days. Morquecho was a member of the third-place team. The winners are entitled to at least $15,000 in tuition waivers in varying amounts.

Kira Boyle-Wilder, RN, MSN (B.S., Nursing, 1993) was recently commissioned as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Public Health Service. Formerly of Munster, Boyle-Wilder is employed by the Commission Corps as a registered nurse for the Indian Health Service in the intensive-care unit at Phoenix Indian Medical Center.

Vercena Stewart (B.A., Afro-American Studies, 1975) received a Governor’s Award for Achievement in Civic Leadership. A Gary native, Stewart is the principal of Ambassador Christian Academy in Gary. Stewart holds master’s and doctoral degrees in pastoral care and counseling and has worked with children and their families in education and social services for more than 40 years.

Paulina Long (B.S., Computer Information Systems, 1998; MBA, 2002) served as a Games Maker at the Summer Olympics in London. Long represented her employer, ArcelorMittal, at the games. Long was part of a team responsible for responding to information technology service requests from athletes and relatives of athletes inside of the Aquatics Centre.

Suzette Sorrells (AGS, 2010), a native of Valparaiso, launched Trinity Medical Billing Solutions, a medical billing center.
What you need to know about Probiotics

Probiotics are live organisms that help maintain the balance of bacteria in the intestines.

Foods or supplements that contain probiotics add to the beneficial bacteria normally present in the gastrointestinal tract or can serve to replace beneficial bacteria lost through such activities as taking antibiotics.

While the actions listed below have been demonstrated in research, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved any health claims for probiotics.

Consuming probiotics may:

• Assist in food and nutrient absorption
• Inhibit harmful bacteria
• Boost immune system function (resist disease)
• Help to manufacture B vitamins and vitamin K
• Help digest lactose
• Help normalize cholesterol and triglyceride levels
• Help break down and rebuild hormones

There are many different types of probiotics. Of the approximately 500 strains of bacteria, 20 make up about 75 percent of gut bacteria. The body, especially the lower gastrointestinal tract, contains a complex and diverse community of bacteria, including:

• Lactobacillus, the most important strain, populates the small intestine.
• Bifidobacterium resides in the large intestine.
• There are many specific types of bacteria within each of these two broad groups.

Sources for probiotics include:

• Fermented foods: cottage cheese, yogurt, sauerkraut, kefir (fermented milk drink).
• Commercial supplements: Many don’t contain enough strains of probiotics. The average person benefits from a supplement that contains about five billion mixed strain probiotics. Encapsulating probiotics can render probiotics ineffective, as they are living organisms.

Common Usages:

• Diarrhea associated with infections, antibiotics, inflammatory bowel disease (ulcerative colitis, Crohn’s disease).
• Prevention of tooth decay and maintenance of oral health.
• Lactose intolerance.
• Prevention and treatment of allergic reactions, specifically atopic dermatitis.

When using probiotics, it is wise to remember:

• An understanding of probiotics is a work in progress. Scientific evidence supporting specific uses is still limited.
• Different probiotic products may contain different types of bacteria. Different types of probiotics may have different effects in the human body and may vary from person to person.
• Probiotics should not be used in place of conventional medicine.
• Tell your healthcare provider about any complementary and alternative approaches you use.

Visit the Campus Health and Wellness Clinic

Mondays 7:30am-1:30pm
Tuesdays 9:00am-3:00pm
Wednesdays 9:00am-3:00pm
(219) 980-7250
Dunes Medical/Professional Building, Room 1027
iun.edu/~health4u
IU Northwest has named Ellen Szarleta, Ph.D. as its Director for the Center for Urban and Regional Excellence (CURE). Szarleta, who also has a faculty appointment in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs, has served as interim director for CURE for the past year.

With a doctorate in natural resource economics and a law degree, Szarleta brings to CURE her considerable expertise in the fields of law, economics and environmental policy.

As CURE’s director, Szarleta aims to leverage the collective strengths of the university’s faculty, staff, students and community collaborators to improve the quality of life in Northwest Indiana.

CURE is an umbrella organization for several other initiatives, such as the Northwest Indiana Consortium for the Environment and the Non-Profit Institute, which provides education, research and technical assistance to local non-profit groups. CURE also supports faculty through funded research fellowships to advance studies of regional relevance.

Craig DeMyer named registrar

IU Northwest has named Craig DeMyer as its new Registrar.

Since 2003, DeMyer had served as the Assistant Registrar at IU South Bend. DeMyer also served as an adjunct instructor at the South Bend campus, where he taught education, computer science and business classes.

DeMyer holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration and economics from Indiana Central College and a master’s degree in finance from Colorado State University.

Patricia Nowak named IU Northwest police chief

IU Northwest recently announced the appointment of Patricia Nowak to the post of campus Chief of Police.

Nowak, the first female Police Chief at any IU campus, is responsible for 12 sworn officers, as well as a team of personnel including several dispatchers.

Nowak comes to IU Northwest with 30 years of experience in law enforcement, the majority of which has been with the City of East Lansing (Mich.).

For almost four years, Nowak also served as a facilitator/instructor for Michigan State University’s Executive Law Enforcement Staff and Command.

Nowak holds a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and psychology, a master’s degree in criminal justice, and a master’s degree in social work, all from Michigan State University.

The IU Northwest Neal-Marshall Alumni Club was selected as recipient of the highly coveted Alumni Communities Award in the category of Diversity & Multiculturalism. This award was based on their “Making the Connection” program featuring the African American Choral Ensemble’s performance at IU Northwest. The choir was invited to perform with song, historical commentary and dialogue. Phyllis Barlow, President of the IUNMAC, received the award in June on behalf of the club during Cream & Crimson weekend at the Alumni Leadership Conference. The Indiana University Alumni Association presents the Alumni Communities Award to alumni chapters across the world to honor those who work hard to engage alumni through a variety of events and programs.

Faculty achievements

Subir Bandyopadhyay, Ph.D., was recently awarded a $2,250 fellowship from Indiana Campus Connect (ICC) to develop an effective communication strategy to prevent the onset of diabetes among Northwest Indiana citizens.

Tin-Chun Lin, Ph.D. has been informed that his paper, entitled “Application of a Static Game of Complete Information: Economic Behaviors of Husbands and Wives,” has been accepted for publication in International Journal of Economics. This is a refereed journal and is indexed by the Journal of Economics Literature (JEL). He is the sole author of the paper.

Faculty members from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs teamed up to compete in the Memorial Day Trail Run Extreme at Imagination Glen Park in Portage, Indiana in May. This 12K trail features creek crossings, hills, log jumps, and switchbacks. Although the SPEA team did not come in first, the faculty definitely ran a great race and all for a good cause. The proceeds benefit Gabriele’s Horn, an area women’s shelter. SPEA also sponsored the event through donations. This is the second year that SPEA has been involved in this event. The School will continue to recruit interest in a Police/Fire Individual and Team Challenge for this annual event.
Please welcome the following individuals who recently joined the IU Northwest campus:

- Evelyn Bottando, Communication Arts
- Natasha Brown, Communication Arts
- Eufemia Carbajal, School of Business and Economics
- Adam Conner, Chemistry
- Jamie Connors, School of Business and Economics
- Carol Dotson, Office of the Bursar
- Donn Gobbie, School of Education
- Herbert Goetze, School of Education
- Steven Holm, Dental Education
- Elizabeth Karpowicz, Fine Arts
- Daniel Kelly, Chemistry
- Eunjoo Kim, School of Education
- Bhaskara Kopparty, Computer Information Systems
- Okechukwu Nwogbo, IUSM-NW
- Nancy O’Keefe, IUSM-NW
- Leanne Palmer, IUSM-NW
- David Parnell, History
- Micah Pollak, School of Business and Economics
- Alex Semchuck, Communication Arts
- Mark Spencer, Performing Arts
- Antonia Szymanski, School of Education
- Suresh Unni, Social Work
- Oscar Villereal, Mathematics

The IU Northwest Council wants to hear from you!

Being aware of the campus community’s questions, comments, concerns and suggestions is important and part of the IU Northwest Council’s role is to encourage open dialogue and a responsive campus.

Last year, it was suggested at a campus Town Hall meeting that the IU Northwest Council establish an Electronic Suggestion Box, as a convenient way to enable members of the campus community to bring their questions, concerns and ideas directly to the attention of the Council, our campus’s principal governance and planning group that meets regularly to discuss the significant issues that face IU Northwest.

With the help of the Office of Marketing & Communications, the Electronic Suggestion Box has been created and is ready for members of the IU Northwest campus community to use. It is not necessary to include your name when submitting a query or suggestion, but, if you want to receive a response, your name and contact information can be included.

You can access the Electronic Suggestion Box by:
· Clicking here
· Under the ‘About IUN’ tab called ‘Campus Suggestions’ located on the IU Northwest home page

Your questions and ideas will be forwarded to the appropriate campus office or to the IU Northwest Council for consideration.

The Council hopes that you will find the Electronic Suggestion Box a useful tool for keeping the group aware of the issues that are of concern to members of the IU Northwest campus community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 12
Thrill of the Grill

Sept. 17
Texting Awareness Event

Sept. 20
Earning a doctorate in Urban Education Studies

Sept. 26
Rhythm and Dance: Crossing Continents

Sept. 28
Alumni Night at the Theater

ELECTRONIC SUGGESTION BOX