IU Northwest joins forces with INHSRA

Partnership provides business students with real-world experience while supporting effort to bring high speed trains to region

The Indiana High Speed Rail Association (INHSRA) began in 1994 with a vision by founder Dennis Hodges, now the vice president of business relations. After riding the rails in Europe, Hodges came back to the states with a vision to bring the efficient and affordable high-speed transportation to the Midwest.

Since then, the INHSRA has acquired many supporters in the venture, including Indiana University Northwest.

A grassroots non-profit comprised of citizens, professionals and government representatives, the advocacy organization needs top-notch business consulting. Business students at IU Northwest need to learn how to put their education to work in the real world. Put the two together and it’s a winning combination that benefits stakeholders on a number of levels.

For students, the partnership provides an opportunity to take on a real client with real needs, not just a theoretical case study. For the INHSRA, it means solid business advice from savvy students and their mentors from a school endorsed by AACSB International, a credential held by less than five percent of business schools worldwide, including IU Northwest’s School of Business and Economics.

Each semester, students taking a capstone course from Associate Professor of Business and Economics Rajan Selladurai, Ph.D., take on the INHSRA as a client. Most recently, they provided the non-profit with a business plan and recommendations for taking the group’s vision to the next level.

“This is really a boon and a Godsend to us,” Hodges said of the university’s participation.

In addition, IU Northwest’s Center for Urban and Regional Excellence (CURE) recently awarded a grant to Selladurai to conduct research for the INHSRA. Business students and faculty members facilitated focus groups attended by 25 business, political, and education leaders, which revealed a need for more political support, funding sources and public awareness.

The findings of those focus groups provided much direction for more work to be done by future capstone classes that will also assist the INHSRA. Plans are also in the works to conduct feasibility research in the Fort Wayne and South Bend areas, Selladurai said.

For Jerred Zukanovich, the university’s partnership with INHSRA afforded him a valuable internship opportunity. As part of his business education, he is dividing his time between the INHSRA and IU Northwest, assisting with research and exploring the awareness and impact of high speed rail in Indiana while gaining on-the-job experience.

Currently, the business school’s student research and reports sit on the desks of government officials and the INHSRA folks are awaiting word on whether funding might eventually be granted to move the vision to reality. Hodges hopes to see this happen by 2016, he said, which happens to be the 200th birthday of the state of Indiana.

“It would be right to see Indiana come into a position of being a leader in rail transportation once again,” Hodges said.

Selladurai said that bringing a high-speed rail system to Indiana would have tremendous economic benefit for Indiana, to the tune of a $1.80 return on every dollar spent. Widespread awareness of this fact is something Selladurai and Hodges hope to impress upon the government officials, business leaders and the community as a whole.

The Midwest Regional Rail System (MWRSS) initiative, connecting Indiana and nine other states, is expected to generate $2.3 - $3.5 billion user benefit for Indiana, an overall savings to the state’s transportation network users and the residents of Indiana. It will also contribute to Indiana’s economic growth and development, including strengthening various manufacturing, service, transportation/distribution, travel, tourism, and other industries, Selladurai said.

“It’s not certain how much money any legislative body will give to transportation but I think when we dot our I’s and cross our T’s and make it very clear that this brings about economic benefit and jobs to the state, I think we have a better chance,” Hodges said.

To learn more about the Indiana High Speed Rail Association, visit [http://www.indianahighspeedrail.org/index.html](http://www.indianahighspeedrail.org/index.html).
Dennis King admits that he had a bit of a procrastination problem when he was in college at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI).

Fortunately, he had an academic counselor who helped him work through his shortcomings. King said the support he received was so vital to his success that he decided to follow the career path of his respected counselor. He, too, wanted to make a difference in the lives of students faced with challenges and do everything he could to help them succeed.

“I loved the work that they did,” King said of his undergraduate counselors. “They were integral in my completing my degree.”

After graduating from IUPUI with a bachelor’s degree in English in 2004, King returned to his native Gary to pursue a Master of Science in Public Administration, which he earned in 2007. He then went back to IUPUI and began his career as an academic advising coordinator.

Now, King has returned home yet again and is currently serving as IU Northwest’s coordinator of academic advising and tutoring, a position he began in January. In his role, King serves as an advocate for students. He arranges for tutoring, organizes workshops to foster good study skills, and helps students to balance challenging schedules.

“The best part about his job, King said, “is working with students every day.”

“We work with students and try to provide whatever service we can to ensure they are successful,” King said.

The program under which King received support services at IUPUI, and which serves to support students at IU Northwest, is a federally funded program known as TRIO. TRIO has three components – Educational Talent Search, Upward Bound for teens, and Support Services for post-high school students.

Support services through the TRIO grant work to provide academic assistance to first-generation college students who demonstrate academic need along with income challenges and/or disabilities.

The best part about his job, King said, is “working with students every day.”

“I take pride in advocating on their behalf,” King said. “You have to have a certain heart for the work that we do. (With) my coming up in the program, I have the deepest admiration for the work that TRIO is celebrated for.”

In his spare time, King enjoys listening to jazz music and playing pool. He resides in Gary with his wife of three years, Elizabeth.
International Human Cadaver Prosection Program honors body donors with memorial

In January, first-year medical students of the IU School of Medicine – Northwest held a donor memorial service in honor and recognition of the six anatomical donors who selflessly gifted their bodies to scientific learning. Family members of the donors attended the service allowing them the unique opportunity to meet the medical students.

The service, provided the IUSM-NW student doctors, faculty, staff and donor’s families the opportunity to express their thanks for the gifts of the donors. In written passages, songs and prayers, the students reflected on the privilege that has been afforded to them by the donor who endowed his or her body to medical education and research.

(Top left) IUSM-NW student, Jeremiah J. Cox, holds flowers during the service while members of the IU Northwest ROTC fold a flag in honor of a veteran donor.

(Top right) IUSM-NW student, Danielle Richardson (left), reads a letter she has written to her donor’s family. Rachel Steinken (right), IUSM-NW student, listens.

(Bottom left) Daniel Pop, IUSM-NW student, plays Pink Floyd’s “Wish You Were Here” during the service. The song was part of a duet played with IUSM-NW student Samuel Rheinhardt.
Brother2Brother enlightens Lew Wallace eighth graders about the value of education

IU Northwest students who are members of the Brother2Brother (B2B) college success program took time recently to speak with a number of eighth graders who are part of the Lew Wallace S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Academy.

Tavetta Patterson, Executive Director of the Gary Life Education Initiative, invited B2B and IU Northwest staff members to the academy to offer words of wisdom and share their life experiences and adversities they have overcome with the students.

The primary objective of B2B is to help underrepresented minority male college students who are enrolled in courses at IU Northwest achieve graduation. The program provides its cohorts with access to academic support, as well as financial, personal and professional resources to significantly increase the probability of graduation and ready them for productive citizenship.

The IU Northwest B2B officers who visited the eighth graders include Christopher Anderson, Roy Lee Cast, Jr., Donald Luckett, Sr., and Gabriel Sotres. Each student talked about how an undergraduate degree from IU Northwest fits into their long-term career plans. As one example, Sotres’ presentation, “Do You Really Know What It Takes To Be a Millionaire?” expressed to the youth that the vast majority of millionaires worldwide are college educated.

James Wallace, Interim Director for the Office of Diversity Programming; Alan Currie, Program Coordinator for B2B; and Jeffery Moseley, Jr., Coordinator for the Office of Diversity Programming, attended the program and offered their wisdom to the youth as well.

B2B works to educate, improve communities

In February, members of B2B invited Hammond Judge Pro Tempore and Gary Attorney Kenya A. Jones, Esq., to speak to B2B members about the importance of developing and maintaining good credit.

B2B members recently hosted a Black History Month trivia contest modeled after the popular syndicated television game show, “Family Feud.” B2B President Christopher Robinson served as the master of ceremonies, and IU Northwest Assistant Professor Regina Jones, Ph.D. offered a few words about prominent African-American achievers.

Brother2Brother members Roy Lee Cast, center, and Christopher Anderson, right, demonstrate how to properly tie a tie for Lew Wallace students.

DIVERSITY COLUMN

Alan Roger Currie
Office of Diversity Programming
March 10
CALUMET REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR
Lake County elementary through high school students who earned honors at their individual school and district science fairs will display their projects at the 56th Annual Calumet Regional Science Fair and Associated Art Exhibit, hosted by IU Northwest from 12 to 3 p.m., Saturday, March 10 in the Savannah Gymnasium. An awards ceremony will take place at 3 p.m. Another awards ceremony is scheduled for 1 p.m., Sunday, March 11 where the more prestigious awards will be bestowed. For more information, contact Linda Wozniewski at (219) 980-6637 or lwozn@iun.edu.

March 20
NSLS EVENT: ‘HOW TO GET WHAT YOU WANT – IN THE REAL WORLD’
The IU Northwest Chapter of the National Society of Leadership & Success (NSLS) will present via a live satellite feed, a talk by Mel Robbins, host and star of the A&E Network’s hit television series, “Monster In-laws.” Robbins will discuss, “How to Get What You Want – In the REAL World,” via satellite at 6 p.m., Tuesday, March 20 in the Gallery for Contemporary Art, located in the Savannah Center. For more information about the National Society of Leadership and Success, visit www.societyleadership.org/.

March 21
NSSP BROWN BAG FORUM ON TEST ANXIETY
IU Northwest’s Office of Diversity Programming invites new students to learn about resources that can help them succeed in their respective programs at a series of New Student Success Program (NSSP) Brown Bag Forums. At 12 p.m., Wednesday, March 21 in Hawthorn Hall (107), Counselor Barbara Bullock will be the featured speaker. She will discuss overcoming test anxiety. Students are encouraged to bring their lunches and settle in for an informal discussion with their peers and staff and faculty members. For more information, contact James Wallace at (219) 980-6601.

March 21
DEF POET PERFORMER
The Office of Diversity Programming invites the public and campus community to enjoy the comedy of Joe Hernandez-Kolski, a two-time HBO Def Poet who uses his performance of spoken poetry and music to promote his message that although we are all different, there are many things that are common in all of our lives. The free program is scheduled for 12 p.m., Wednesday, March 21 in the Moraine Student Center. For information, contact Phyllis Barlow at (219) 980-6596.

March 22
CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS: ‘GENDER, JUSTICE, WORK AND POWER’
Women’s and Gender Studies will hold a Student Research Conference on Thursday, March 22 in the Library Conference Center, Room 105 ABC. The day begins with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. followed by student paper presentations until 12 p.m. After a free lunch (provided), State Legislator Linda Lawson will deliver a keynote address focusing on the consequences of “Right to Work” legislation and efforts to defund Planned Parenthood. A roundtable discussion, “Muslim Women and the Veil” will take place at 2:30 p.m. and the program concludes at 4 p.m. For more information, contact Tanice Foltz, Ph.D. at (219) 980-6786 or tfoltz@iun.edu.

March 23-24
DANCE MARATHON
The Office of Student Life and Athletics invites students to participate in an 18-hour Dance Marathon to benefit The Arc Northwest Indiana, an agency that assists individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The event is scheduled from 6 p.m., Friday, Mar. 23 to 12 p.m., Saturday, March 24 in the Savannah Gymnasium. The cost to participate is $20 with a minimum donation amount of $100. To register, contact Scott Fulk before March 12 at (219) 980-6792.

March 26
IU CARES BOOK DRIVE
As part of IU Cares Month activities, IU Alumni are taking book donations from March 26 to April 9. Drop boxes will be located at participating Strack and Van Til supermarkets and Centier Bank locations. The books are distributed to schools, shelters and other organizations in need of reading material. For more information, contact Paulette LaFata-Johnson at (219) 980-6769 or visit http://alumni.indiana.edu/iucares/.

March 26
BIG ONE DOLLAR BOOK SALE
The Anthropology Club’s Big One-Dollar Book Sale will return the week of March 26. The popular sale will take place from 9 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. on Monday and 9:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday through Thursday in the Moraine Student Center. Thursday, March 29 is the last day of the sale.

Anyone wishing to donate books to the sale may bring them to the event. Those who wish to donate large quantities of books may contact Associate Professor of Anthropology Robert Mucci at (219) 980-6607, or they may notify someone at the sale so that arrangements can be made to pick up the donated books from the donor’s vehicle.

March 29
PREVIEW NIGHT
IU Northwest will host Spring Preview Night on Thursday, March 29, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Savannah Center. High school students, adult learners and other students of all ages and interests are invited to speak with faculty members, learn about campus groups and programs, tour the campus, and attend a financial aid presentation.

Following a brief presentation, the Spring Preview event will feature an academic and student services fair in the Savannah Gymnasium from 6:15 until 6:45 p.m. with campus tours beginning at 6:25 p.m. RSVP before March 23 by calling (219) 980-6823.
Please join the members of the Teaching Committee in congratulating the following faculty members on being nominated for the **IU Northwest Founders Day Teaching Award**. These exceptional teachers were nominated primarily by students and many were nominated multiple times. Founders Day Teaching Awards will be announced in April.


Kudos to the **Criminal Justice Student Association**! The U.S. Marine Corps and the Coalition of Pastors of the NWI Community Outreach Ministry recently recognized the roaring success of the group’s inaugural Toys for Tots drive. Thanks to the generosity of the campus community, the group collected more than 200 toys that were distributed to Northwest Indiana children during the 2011 holiday season.

To join the CJS, and participate in its many community service efforts, stop by the SPEA office in Dunes for an application. Or, contact Everett Fitzgerald, CJS president, at edfitzge@umail.iu.edu.

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**NOTES OF DISTINCTION**

**CLASS NOTES**

Will Fortenberry, Jr. (B.S., Secondary Education/Social Studies, 2011) has been hired as the new soccer director for the Portage Parks and Recreation Department. A lifelong resident of Portage and Portage High School alumnus, Forenberry was a volunteer coach for the Portage High School men’s soccer team while he attended IU Northwest.

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**IU NORTHWEST IN THE NEWS**

Indiana University Northwest appears in the news on a daily basis. Below is a recap of some of those news stories featuring IU Northwest faculty, staff, students, and academic programs.

Region employment working to catch up with nation’s strong 2012 start
*Northwest Indiana Times*
Saturday, Feb. 4

Indiana colleges respond to calls to trim tuition
*Post-Tribune*
Tuesday, Feb. 7

Hammond mayor lectures at IUN
*Post-Tribune*
Wednesday, Feb. 8

Women more likely than men to own a home by themselves
*Post-Tribune*
Thursday, Feb. 9

Nearly 20 percent of Indiana students in special education
*Northwest Indiana Times*
Saturday, Feb. 11

Bosma shelves creationism bill; IUN celebrates Darwin Day
*Northwest Indiana Times*
Tuesday, Feb. 14

Harvard study finds healthy alternative to red meat in controlling Type 2 diabetes
*Northwest Indiana Times*
Wednesday, Feb. 15

Club marks Darwin’s birthday with discussion of cadavers
*Northwest Indiana Times*
Thursday, Feb. 16

Science Olympiad at IUN tests students, coaches
*Post-Tribune*
Saturday, Feb. 18

Science competition brings local students to IUN
*Northwest Indiana Times*
Sunday, Feb. 19

As recession ebbs, so will enrollments
*Northwest Indiana Times*
Sunday, Feb. 19