



## **Tobacco-free Region Ivy Tech Community College-North Central**

**South Bend**

**Elkhart**

**Warsaw**

### **Effective Sept. 1, 2006:**

**Smoking or any form of tobacco use is prohibited in all College-owned or leased facilities and vehicles, including surrounding areas of the buildings, except within student-, staff-, or visitor-owned automobiles located in College parking lots. The sale or distribution of tobacco products and the sponsorship of College events, activities, or media by tobacco-related products likewise are prohibited.**

**Individuals using tobacco products in personal vehicles must extinguish and dispose of tobacco debris in the car ashtray or other container in the car before exiting the vehicle.**

### **Questions & Answers**

#### **What prompted Ivy Tech-North Central to become a tobacco-free region?**

- An overall desire to create a safe and healthy environment for students, faculty and staff, and visitors to Ivy Tech-North Central campuses and facilities. This includes concern about the effects of secondary smoke exposure on nonsmokers. A report issued June 27, 2006, by U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona finds that exposure to secondary smoke at any level poses a health risk to nonsmokers.
- Community efforts to eliminate tobacco use in public settings, particularly the recent ban on smoking in St. Joseph County.
- The unsightliness of smoky areas at building entrances, and cigarette debris and other tobacco residue on buildings and grounds.
- The substantial maintenance costs associated with removing cigarette debris and tobacco residue from buildings and grounds.

#### **Where can people smoke or otherwise use tobacco products?**

The College has not prohibited the use of tobacco products in privately owned vehicles parked on College property. People choosing to smoke in privately owned vehicles are to be considerate of others using the Ivy Tech parking lot by:

- Keeping car doors and windows closed while they smoke.
- Extinguishing smoking materials and disposing of tobacco debris in their car ashtrays before exiting their vehicles.

Failure to comply with the above may result in disciplinary action against the individual tobacco-user and, if violations are widespread, a ban on the use of tobacco products anywhere on College-owned or leased property, including inside personal vehicles.

The College has no authority to prohibit tobacco use on public sidewalks, such as those along Fellows Street and Dean Johnson Boulevard in South Bend.

**What College sites are included in the tobacco ban?** “Owned” and “leased” facilities included in this ban are:

- The campuses at South Bend, Elkhart and Warsaw
- The Ivy Tech Trade Center in South Bend
- The Ivy Tech machine tool site in Warsaw
- The Ivy Tech-PULL site in Elkhart
- Other sites that the North Central Region may purchase or lease after the tobacco ban goes into effect

“Owned” and “leased” sites do not include sites where outreach classes are held, such as Goshen and NorthWood high schools and the Elkhart Career Center. The tobacco-use policy of the host facility should be followed at these locations.

**What about using tobacco products on property adjoining, or across the street from, an Ivy Tech-North Central site?** Students, faculty and staff are reminded that these properties are private properties, and the tobacco-use policies of the property owners must be followed. Where the tobacco-use policy is unclear, it should be assumed that tobacco use is prohibited. Ivy Tech values the goodwill of neighboring property owners. Any complaints lodged by neighboring property owners against Ivy Tech students, staff or faculty who violate their property-use rules will be thoroughly investigated and appropriate disciplinary action taken.

**How will the tobacco ban be enforced?**

Like any other rule infraction. Faculty and staff violating the ban are subject to the progressive discipline process outlined in the statewide Employee Handbook. Students are subject to the disciplinary actions outlined in the Ivy Tech-North Central Student Handbook. Visitors violating the ban may be escorted off the Ivy Tech property and prohibited from returning. In St. Joseph County, the violator may face a fine if the violation is reported by the College or a citizen to the St. Joseph County Health Department.

**What should I do if I see someone violating the tobacco ban?**

If you are comfortable doing so, it is appropriate to give the violator a courteous reminder of the ban. Faculty, staff and students are reminded that every individual—whether tobacco-user or nonuser—should be accorded dignity and respect. Therefore, harassment or intimidation of violators is never appropriate, and is subject to disciplinary measures by the College. Contact a campus security official or campus executive dean (Elkhart and Warsaw) if:

- You are not comfortable reminding the violator yourself and wish to report the offense.
- The violator is a frequent offender.
- The violator is rude, discourteous or defiant.

**What assistance will be given to smokers who wish to stop?** The College will offer smoking cessation classes for students, faculty and staff in cooperation with the American Lung Association.

**This ban sounds like a radical step. What are other colleges and universities doing?** At least three other Ivy Tech regions (Columbus, Gary and Terre Haute) already have instituted tobacco bans similar to ours, as will IU-Purdue University in Indianapolis, IU-East and Ivy Tech-Richmond beginning Aug. 1. IU-East and Ivy Tech-Richmond will extend the ban to personal vehicles.