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Indiana's Workforce is at a Crossroads—We Must Invest in Ivy Tech

By Mayor Brandon Sakbun, City of Terre Haute

In Indiana, we know the value of a strong team, a solid game plan, and taking the right shots at the right time. Just like in basketball, our economy thrives when we invest in the fundamentals—education, workforce development, and industry partnerships. Right now, we have a game-changing opportunity to strengthen our workforce pipeline, but if we hesitate, Indiana risks falling behind.

That is why we must fully fund the $67 million capital project at Ivy Tech Community College Terre Haute. This is not just an investment in education—it is an investment in Indiana's workforce, economy, and long-term prosperity.

A Workforce That Keeps Indiana Competitive

Ivy Tech is Indiana's largest workforce training institution, and its impact stretches well beyond Terre Haute. It serves West Central Indiana, including Clay, Putnam, Parke, Sullivan, and Vermillion counties, giving thousands of Hoosiers an affordable, career-focused education that leads directly to high-demand jobs.

The impact is undeniable:

- Eighty percent of Ivy Tech students remain in their region after graduation, strengthening local economies and ensuring Indiana retains homegrown talent.
- Ivy Tech graduates contribute an astounding $3.9 billion in income annually to Indiana's economy, **reinforcing its role as a key economic engine**.
- Ivy Tech is recognized as the nation's largest producer of industry-aligned certifications, ensuring that graduates meet the evolving needs of employers.

When Ivy Tech thrives, our entire community benefits—businesses gain skilled employees, industries grow, and our local economy becomes more resilient.

The Legislature Must Act Now

We appreciate the support of local legislators, who understand the urgent need for this project. But this decision extends beyond West Central Indiana. We need policymakers from across Indiana to recognize the statewide impact of this investment.

When we invest in Ivy Tech, we invest in the skilled workforce that drives business success. When we strengthen workforce training, we make Indiana more attractive to employers and new industries.

If we fail to act, we risk losing economic opportunities to states that are investing in their workforce development infrastructure. The legislature has the chance to make a transformative impact—not just for Ivy Tech students, but for every Hoosier business that depends on a strong workforce.

Indiana Cannot Afford to Sit on the Bench

Basketball teaches us that winning is not just about talent—it is about preparation, investment, and taking the right shots when they matter most. Right now, Ivy Tech's funding request is our open shot. If we take it, we set up Indiana for long-term economic success. If we hesitate, we let other states outcompete us.

We are at a crossroads. Either we invest in the future of Indiana's workforce, or we allow our talent pipeline to weaken. I urge my fellow Hoosiers, business leaders, and elected officials to stand behind Ivy Tech's capital project funding request and ensure that our region—and our state—remains competitive for decades to come.

The time to act is now. Let us take the shot and win for Indiana.



Brandon Sakbun
Mayor, City of Terre Haute