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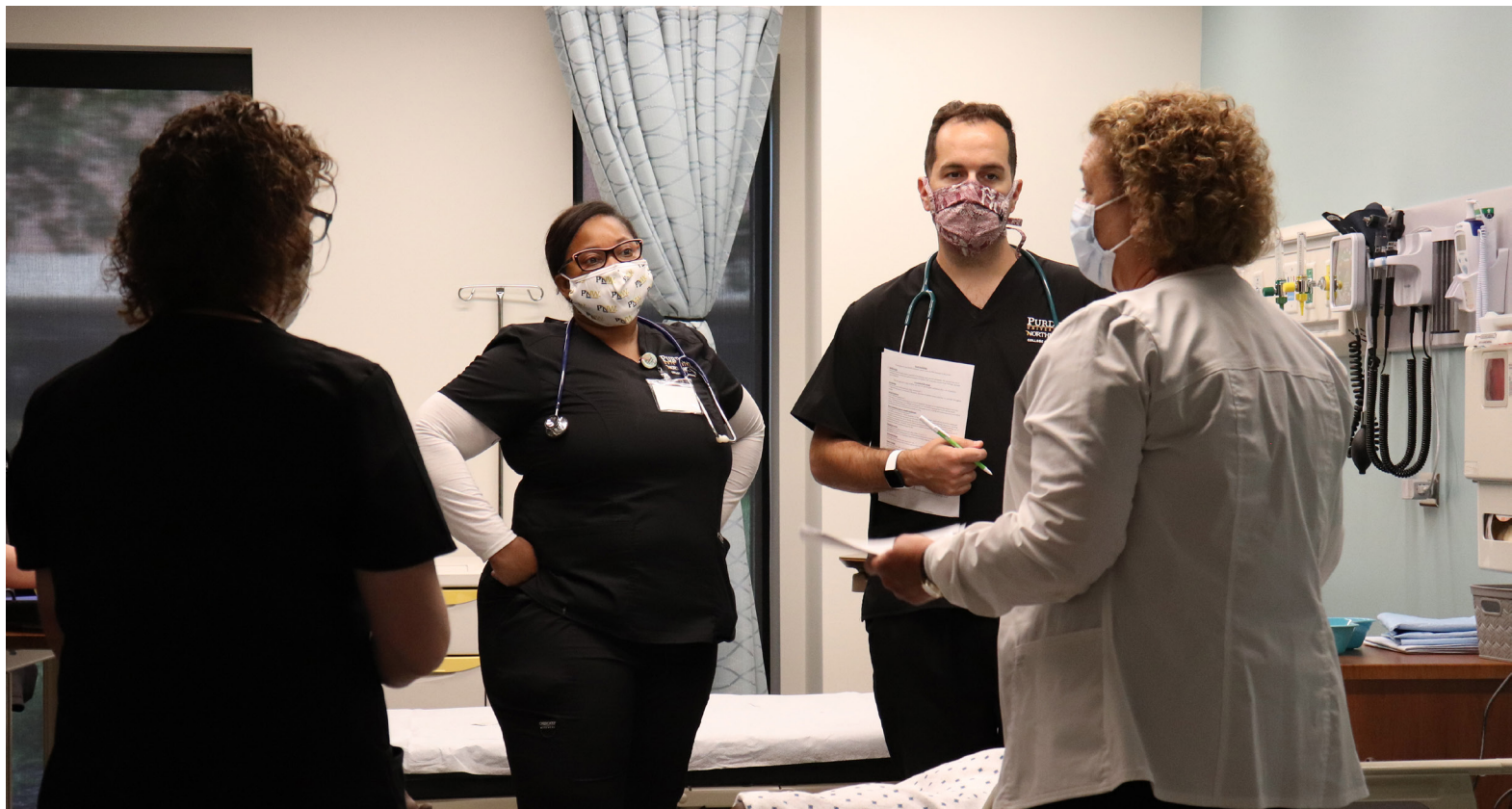
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October 1, 2020

Purdue Northwest students, faculty off to a strong start for fall 2020



Purdue Northwest nursing students listen to instructions in a lab class in the new Nils K. Nelson Bioscience Innovation Building. Nursing is one of the PNW academic programs that saw enrollment growth this fall as students and faculty address the challenges presented by the global pandemic.

HAMMOND and WESTVILLE, Ind. — Purdue University Northwest (PNW) continues to enroll one of the most diverse and persistent student bodies in the state of Indiana as students, faculty and staff address the new challenges presented by the global pandemic.

Hispanic students represent 24% of this year's full-time, undergraduate students. The freshman class is comprised of 38.9% underrepresented minority groups. The percentage of students attending PNW full-

time increased to 81% of core undergraduate students. First-time, full-time students who enrolled in fall 2019 returned at a rate of 70.6%.

"Everyone has worked collaboratively to achieve a safe, engaging start to the semester. Students are attending classes in virtual, hybrid and fully in-person formats, with increased safety and health protocols for on-campus experiences and innovative learning opportunities for remote courses," Chancellor Thomas L. Keon said.

"Fall-to-fall retention is at its highest level in PNW's five-year history," he added. "Many academic programs including nursing, business and engineering saw increases in enrollment. PNW offers a transformative experience and resources to support students as they power onward toward their goals."

Keon noted that fall enrollment met projections made previous to the pandemic, which were adjusted due to the impact of COVID-19 on an already challenging higher education

environment. PNW reported fall 2020 total enrollment of 9,363, representing a 6.4 percent decline from fall 2019. Total enrollment is comprised of students new to college, continuing students, transfers, others enrolled in online degree programs, and high school concurrent/dual credit enrollees.

*Source: Purdue University
Northwest*

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www.am.legal.com/hammond_in/

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219.853.6399

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Up & Coming Events

Every 2nd & 4th Thursday

The New Hope Baptist Church Food Pantry will be held every 2nd and 4th Thursday starting May 28, 2020 at New Hope Too Fellowship Hall, 6634 Calumet, Hammond, IN, from 1:30 to 3:00 PM or until food runs out. Drive thru only. The pantry will operate on a first come first served basis. For further information or if you would like to donate toward this worthy cause, please call the church at 219-932-5955, or Shirley at (219) 680-6109.

DHC Hunting off Hohman

Saturday, October 3 from 9 am-4pm
Haunting & Hunting along Hohman Avenue in Downtown Hammond
Costume contest
Tricks and treats
This event is like trick or treating for adult
Like the DHC on Facebook or call 219-512-4298 s

Arts + Action Community Lab

Saturday, October 10 from 2pm-5pm
Corner of Hohman Ave. & Sibley
Free + open to the Public
Art Exhibits - Hands-On Activities - Cool + Weird Objects
Live performance by experimental musician Joe Rauen 1pm-2pm
Hammond Development Corporation

Hammond Education Foundation 2020 HERO in Education Award Winners

HAMMOND, Ind. – The Hammond Education Foundation (HEF) annual awards dinner was first postponed then canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions and the safety of all. The annual awards dinner was planned for the night of March 19th at the Dynasty Banquet Center.

Our HERO's are listed below as well as the school they represent:

Lea Bell – Area Career Center
Ting Chen – Clark HS
Ana Santos – Gavit HS
Theresa Duncan – Hammond HS
Mark Webster – Morton HS
Emily Cisneros – Gavit MS
Michele Haas – Gavit MS
Jennifer Barr – Eggers MS
Lydia McNeiley – Scott MS
Marci Hendricks – Technology
Mary Lugar – Float School Nurse
Daniel Driscoll – Edison
Nicole Partain – Franklin
Tabitha Poland – Harding
Marcia Witherspoon – Hess
Sarah Betustak – Irving
Melissa Bensley – Jefferson
Sheila Hunt – Kenwood
Kelly Lorenz – Lincoln
Theresa Davis – Maywood
Amanda King – Morton Elem
Crystal Fuller – O'Bannon
Doug Andrews – Wallace

Congratulations to all 2020 award winners who work daily to assist in the success of students through the k-12 public education process.

Additionally the HEF board thanks event sponsors, contributors and donors of this cancelled event. While it was a very difficult decision to cancel the event it was the best decision to keep all safe and healthy at an unpredictable time. Funds raised from donors of this event will be used to fund foundation operations, future Acorn Grants, the Blueprint and Natural Helpers programming, and future HERO in Education Award banquet nights.

Hammond Education Foundation ability to successfully partner with the School City of Hammond has remained stable and successful over the past thirty seven years. Although this was not the best way to recognize the award winners, HEF believe in the power of educators and their relationship with students to help build a better Hammond.

*Source: The Hammond
Education Foundation*

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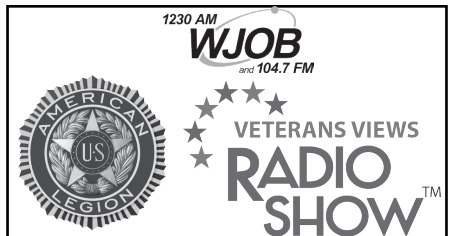
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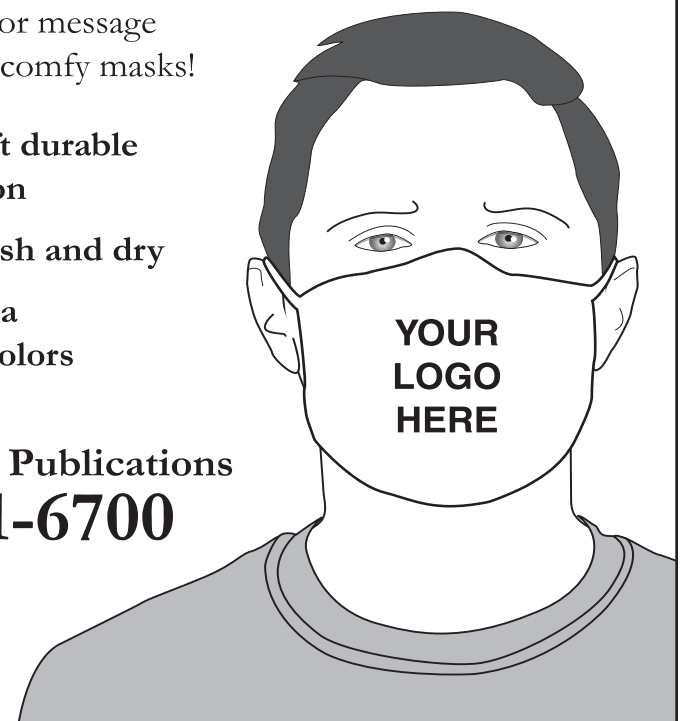
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Church Directory

Abundant Life Community Church

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Pastor Dr. Michael White

(219) 845-0954

Sunday School 10 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship 6 p.m.

Wed. Evening Bible Study 7 p.m.

www.alcccogop.org

An Open Door Church

7105 Hohman Ave., Hammond, IN

Drs. Meredith & Marilyn Shackelford

(219) 803-0045

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

www.anopendoorchurch.org

Bethel Congregational C.O.G.I.C.

815 Michigan St., Hammond, IN

Deacon Lester Stokes

(219) 931-1301

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Friday 7:30 p.m.

Black Oak Church of Christ

2844 Stevenson St., Gary, IN

Pastor Steve Martinez

(219) 844-1789

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Bible Study 9:30 - 10:15

Greater Works Outreach Prayer and Deliverance Ministry

5125 Hohman Ave., Hammond, IN

Apostle Jose Ruiz (219) 852-0677

Sunday 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

www.greaterwksmin.com

Hammond Christian**Reformed Church**

1910 167th St, Hammond, IN

Pastor Donald Jabaay

(219) 844-3331

Sunday School 9:50 a.m.

Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Break Tuesday 9:00 a.m.

Ladies Bible Study Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

www.hammondrc.org

Hyde Park United Methodist Church

6348 Harrison Ave., Hammond, IN

Preacher Darryl Dorton

(219) 932-0613

Sunday 12:30 p.m.

Thursday Thrift shop 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Last Saturday of the month

Free Pancake breakfast 9-11 am

Mt. Zion Baptist Church

1047 Kenwood St., Hammond, IN

Reverend William R. Collins

(219) 931-4337

Sunday 11:00 am

Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 pm

Wednesday Prayer 6:00 pm

New Community Baptist Church

707 169th Street, Hammond, IN

Rev. Patrick H. Gillis, Pastor

(219) 931-8407

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study Wednesday 12:00 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

www.ncbc-hammond.com

New Hope Missionary**Baptist Church**

1117 Merrill St., Hammond, IN

Reverend Herman A. Polk, Sr.

(219) 932-5955

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:00 am

Wednesday 8:30 am, 1:30 & 7:00 pm

New Salem Missionary**Baptist Church**

833 Conkey St., Hammond, IN

Pastor Wayne Hudson

(219) 932-0999

Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

New Zion Temple Church

926 Morris Street, Hammond, IN

Bishop Brandon A. Jacobs

(219) 931-ZION (9466)

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning

Worship 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday Prayer 6:30 p.m.

Wed Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

www.newziontemple.org

Testimony C.O.G.I.C. of Hammond

1022 Cleveland St, Hammond, IN

Elder Patrick Williams

(219) 937-4676

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship 11:30 a.m.

Friday 7:30 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church

7227 Hohman Ave, Hammond, IN

(219) 932-4660

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

On FACEBOOK

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

www.trinityhammond.com

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~ Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Church Directory Listing

\$8.00 per/issue
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**information submitted subject to editing for clarity and space allotted*

Red Cross blood donors have new opportunity to help patients fighting COVID-19

Donors needed this fall to maintain blood supply amid ongoing pandemic

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (Sept. 23, 2020) — Plasma from whole blood donations made through the American Red Cross that test positive for COVID-19 antibodies may now help current coronavirus patients in need of convalescent plasma transfusions. Donors are encouraged to make an appointment to give blood now to help ensure coronavirus patients and others who depend on transfusions have needed blood products this fall.

In April, the Red Cross began collecting COVID-19 convalescent plasma from previously diagnosed individuals, who could only give at one of approximately 170 Red Cross blood donation centers across the country. Convalescent plasma contains COVID-19 antibodies that may help the most critical patients actively fighting this virus. Now, whole blood donations made at any Red Cross blood drive or blood donation center could be helpful in this effort.

“Donations that come back positive for COVID-19 antibodies now undergo secondary testing to confirm antibody results, and that enables the Red Cross to then potentially use the plasma from those donations for COVID-19 patients,” said Rodney Wilson, communications manager for the Red Cross Indiana Ohio Region. “With approximately 2% of the U.S. population

testing positive for COVID-19 antibodies, every donation is important to ensure patients with coronavirus have access to every treatment option available to them.”

The Red Cross encourages eligible individuals to schedule an appointment, download the free Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

In thanks, the Red Cross is offering a \$1,000 Amazon.com Gift Card to five lucky winners who come to give in October. Terms and conditions apply; visit rcblood.org/unite. Additionally, those who come to give by the end of September will receive a free haircut coupon by email to participating Sport Clips Haircuts locations. More information is available at RedCrossBlood.org/Sport-Clips.

About antibody testing

Antibody testing may indicate if the donor’s immune system has produced antibodies to this coronavirus, regardless of whether an individual experienced COVID-19 symptoms. Donations are tested using samples pulled at the time of donation and sent to a testing laboratory where they will also undergo routine infectious disease testing.

COVID-19 antibody test results will be available within

one to two weeks in the Red Cross Blood Donor App or donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org. A positive antibody test result does not confirm infection or immunity. The Red Cross is not testing donors to diagnose illness, referred to as a diagnostic test.

Important COVID-19 information for donors

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions – including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff – have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask while at the drive, in alignment

with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities, Sept. 23-Oct. 15:

Hammond

9/29/2020: 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

9/30/2020: 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Jean Shepherd Community Center 3031 Mahoney Drive

Highland

10/8/2020: 1:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Highland Parks and Recreation Center

2450 Lincoln Street

10/14/2020: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Wicker Memorial Park 2215 Ridge Rd.

Munster

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Salvation Army Calls On Community To Help Rescue Christmas

Launches Christmas Campaign earliest in history



Lake County, Ind. – The Salvation Army is announcing a change to the iconic Red Kettle fundraising campaign for the first time in the organization’s 135-year history. On Monday, Sept. 14, The Salvation Army launched Rescue Christmas with a series of events. The organization is beginning its annual fundraising campaign nearly two months earlier than in a typical year, in order to meet an unprecedented need.

On September 14, the East Chicago location held early bellringing opportunities and distributed snacks from the iconic canteen (mobile feeding unit). On September 16, the three Salvation Army corps community centers in Lake County (East Chicago, Gary-Merrillville, Hammond-Munster) lit up the night sky with a spotlight to shine a light on the community’s need and serve as a beacon of hope.

The Army provides hope for people like Charles, a single father of two children, who lost his job when his employer shut down because of the pandemic.

He was three months behind on rent and fearful his family would soon be homeless. The Salvation Army provided half of the back rent and provided referrals to other service organizations who were able to provide additional help.

“The need for assistance in our communities that is COVID-19 related has not diminished, and we anticipate a greater demand for help during this Christmas season,” said Capt. Brian Clark, Lake County Coordinator. “It will take a team effort that is vital to having a successful fundraising campaign with donors, volunteers and businesses stepping up to help their fellow neighbors.”

The Salvation Army Lake County saw a fivefold increase in need during the height of the pandemic in the spring. Requests for emergency assistance jumped 67 percent. Based on the increase in services already provided in response to COVID-19, the organization could serve up to 155 percent more people in 2020 with requests for food, emergency

assistance, and Christmas assistance – assuming the resources are available.

At the same time, due to the closing of retail stores, consumers carrying less cash and coins, and the decline in foot traffic, The Salvation Army could see up to a 50 percent decrease in funds raised nationally through the Red Kettles, which would limit their capability to provide services for the most vulnerable. Almost 70% of The Salvation Army’s donations are made during the Red Kettle Campaign.

The Red Kettles won’t hit the streets until November, but The Salvation Army is asking for donations online now to help Rescue Christmas, at www.salarmychristmas.org. Every donation provides help and hope to those in need, and all gifts stay within the community in which they are given. If you need services or know of someone in need, please visit www.salarmylakecounty.org.

*Source: The Salvation Army
of Lake County*



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Ivy Tech Community College awards Munster High School students a record-setting number of college credits

Munster, IN, September 16, 2020 — According to Ivy Tech Community College, the number of college credits earned by Munster High School students increased by 300% from the academic year 2018-2019 to 2019-2020.

The Statewide Transfer General Education Core (STGEC) is a block of 30 credit hours in general education coursework that is guaranteed by Indiana state law to transfer to all public four-year schools in Indiana. Ivy Tech Community College awarded 11 total STGEC Ivy Tech Technical Certificates to Munster High School students during the 2018-2019 academic year. That number jumped to a total of 44 STGEC credentials for Munster students during the Fall 2019, Spring 2020, and Summer 2020 semesters. The list of Munster students that have been awarded the STGEC over the 2019-2020 academic year includes:

**James C. Adams
Jacobus Barnard
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Mollie C. Clark
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Cole L. Lesinski
Antonia M. Linnane
Robert J. Maldonado
Caleb J. McKeever
Melinda E. Michalski
Olivia M. Newman
Stephanie Niemiec
Chase M. Persic
Katarina Petrovic
April M. Roberts**

**William Rojas
Yalissa S. Rubio
Abbey A. Ruckert
Isabella M. Scalzo
Ami Shah
Madelyn G. Sharp
Presley Simpson
Ava Sopcie
Emma L. Stricker
John J. Sullivan
Michael Svolos
Haley K. Tate
Tyler F. Tyson
Ariel Velasco**

Creighton T. Kooy also earned an Ivy Tech Certificate in Basic Emergency Medical Studies, bringing the grand total to 45 Ivy Tech credentials awarded to Munster students over the past academic year.

“Munster students, administration, and faculty have put in a tremendous amount of effort to make this increase in the number of completers occur,” said Caleb Westberg, the director of K-14 Initiatives at Ivy Tech Community College.


“We couldn’t be more delighted to see these results, are very proud to recognize these student accomplishments, and hope to continue to work with Munster High School in the future to offer opportunities to earn the STGEC and other Ivy Tech credentials!”

Brad Docter, Munster High School’s Career & Technical Education coordinator, noted that STGEC credentials can save parents thousands of dollars in college tuition.

“The 30 credit hours in one STGEC is a year’s worth of college,” he added. “Considering that the tuition at most state schools is around \$25,000 per year, the potential savings are considerable.”

#For more information, please contact Munster High School Media Specialist Kelly Hladek at (219) 836-3200, ext. 3310 or kmhladek@munster.us.

Source: Munster high School


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'Challenge' met for the Salvation Army Lake County – Thanks to customers of Strack & Van Til Food Markets

Almost \$30,000 donated through "checkout challenge"

Lake County, Ind. – The Salvation Army of Lake County is thankful for nearly \$30,000 in donations made by customers of Highland-based Strack & Van Til Food Markets during the recent Checkout Challenge campaign.

For two weeks, from August 31 to September 13, cashiers at 15 Strack & Van Til Food Markets in Lake County asked customers to round up to the nearest dollar during checkout. The dollars and cents added up to about \$30,000, nearly \$5,000 more than a similar Checkout Challenge campaign last year.

"Raising more money than last year will help us meet the increasing needs of households hurt most by the COVID-19 pandemic," said Captain Brian Clark, Coordinator for The Salvation Army Lake County. "We are incredibly grateful for the continued partnership of Strack & Van Til. From the Red Kettle Campaign to the Checkout Challenge and more, the generosity of the company and its customers play an important role in our fight against hunger and poverty in Northwest Indiana."

Cashiers are key to having a successful campaign. Strack & Van Til and The Salvation Army recognized the three cashiers who raised the most:

Debbie Scott, Strack & Van Til store #8787, Crown Point

Ryan Marquardt, Strack & Van Til store #8747, Hobart

Susan Nieto, Strack & Van Til store #8770, Hammond

"The Salvation Army is one of our favorite organizations to support," said David Wilkinson, COO of Strack & Van Til Food Markets. "They along with other nonprofits we support do so much good in the community. The Checkout Challenge is an easy way to engage our caring customers to help our neighbors in need."

The Salvation Army of Lake County has corps community centers in Munster, East Chicago and Gary. In addition, the nonprofit works with local townships to help meet human needs in outlying areas of Lake County. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, demands for emergency assistance for food, rent and utility payments, as well as other needs have multiplied. Lake County residents in need of assistance are urged to contact your local Salvation Army Corps Community Center by visiting www.SalArmyLakeCounty.org. Those wishing to make a donation or volunteer can do so online, or contact Kevin Feldman, Director of Development at Kevin.Feldman@usc.SalvationArmy.org.

Source: The Salvation Army of Lake County



Dave Wilkinson, Captain Brian Clark, Debbie Scott, Store Director Dave DeBoth



Captain Brian Clark, Store Director John Sansone, and Ryan Marquardt



Front End Mgr Brian Harrigan, Captain Brian Clark, Susan Nieto, Store Director John Gibbs

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Hammond Education Foundation awards 15 scholarships

HAMMOND, Ind.—Fifteen 2020 high school graduates of the School City of Hammond have received \$16,500 in college scholarships for the 2020-21 academic year, thanks to financial contributions made to the Hammond Education Foundation.

Seven scholars from Morton, three each from Clark and Gavit, and two from Hammond High received the awards.

Katrina Hill and Linda Mendieta each received a \$2,500 Biel Scholarship, awarded to Hammond High graduates from a gift made anonymously by a Hammond High alumnus and spouse in memory of late Hammond teacher and

administrator Mark Biel. Both students are furthering their education at Purdue University Northwest.

A gift by retired Hammond teacher Zlatana Draskovich is supporting 10 \$1,000 Brundidge Scholarships. The recipients are Morton graduates Enali Rogers (Butler University), Lia Witherspoon (Indiana University Northwest), Ce'Etter Stevens (Indiana University), Megan Lively (Indiana State University), Lilly Musgraves (DePaul University) and Johnathan Whitehorn (University of North Texas); Clark alumna Hannah Denys (Culinary Institute of Michigan); and from Gavit Ana Almanza (Indiana University),

Tyler Peppers (Indiana University) and Katie Zwierz (Indiana University Northwest).

Additionally, selected to receive \$500 awards were Jenna Tapper of Clark, Kiwanis Scholarship (Purdue University); Rafael Maciel of Clark, James Hornak Trades Scholarship (Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis); and Daija Pellot of Morton, Dr. Gary Jones Scholarship (Indiana University Northwest).

The Hammond Education Foundation is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization and philanthropic partner of the School City of Hammond. Since its origin in 1983, HEF

has generated more than \$1.5 million in scholarships, classroom grants, programs and other support for extraordinary learning experiences and opportunities to help Hammond students succeed—in school and beyond.

Source: Hammond Education Foundation

Hammond Education Foundation grant incentivizes remediation learning

HAMMOND, Ind. – Thanks to a \$2,000 grant awarded by the Hammond Education Foundation, School City of Hammond students benefited academically and personally from a recent summer learning program intended to fill achievement gaps.

The grant funded 87 incentives of Air Pods and food and beverage gift cards for which students who completed remediation lessons in language arts and mathematics could

qualify to receive via bi-weekly drawings.

Though typically federal and public school funding may not be used to purchase learning incentives, the HEF grant provided motivation for struggling students who may have been disadvantaged by the unusual learning gap they experienced last spring due to coronavirus-induced school closures, according to HEF Interim Executive Director Ed Schoenfelt.

“Enabling this grant, we believe, provided a valuable shot in the arm of encouraging those Hammond students who could benefit from a virtual summer learning program to complete important course work and build a foundation of proficiency for standardized exams,” Schoenfelt said.

The program was free and open to all School City of Hammond middle and high school students.

The Hammond Education Foundation, established in 1983, is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization committed to a mission of supporting extraordinary learning experiences to help School City of Hammond students succeed.

Source: Hammond Education Foundation

U.S. Marshals Service

MOST WANTED

For the Northern District of Indiana.



WANTED

Name: Leyva, Jose
Alias:
Sex Male
Race Hispanic
Height 5'11"
Weight 254 Pounds
Eyes Brown
Hair Black
Marks/Scars/Tattoos ..
Wanted For: Pre-Trial Release Violation
Warrant Issued by Northern District of Indiana,
Hammond Division
Date of Warrant 8/24/2010
Original Charge: Dealing Marijuana.



WANTED

Name: Randall, Mareya
Alias:
Sex Female
Race African American
Height 5'6"
Weight 135 Pounds
Eyes Brown
Hair Black
Marks/Scars/Tattoos ..
Wanted For Supervised Release Violation
Warrant Issued by Northern District of Indiana
Hammond Division
Date of Warrant 9/12/2017
Original Charge: Tax Fraud



WANTED

Name: Teamer, Charles
Alias:
Sex Male
Race African American
Height 5'7"
Weight 140 Pounds
Eyes Brown
Hair Black
Marks/Scars/Tattoos ..
Wanted For Supervised Release Violation
Warrant Issued by Northern District of Indiana
Hammond Division
Date of Warrant 8/4/2017
Original Charge: Sell Cocaine



WANTED

Name: Vargas-Rodriguez, Alejandro
Alias Vargas, Alex
Sex Male
Race Mexican
Height 5'4"
Weight 150 Pounds
Eyes Brown
Hair Black
Marks/Scars/Tattoos ..
Wanted For Failure To Appear
Warrant Issued by Northern District of Indiana
Hammond Division
Date of Warrant 3/21/1996
Original Charge Possession With Intent To
Distribute Dangerous Drugs



Anyone with information is urged to contact the nearest Contact the USMS District Office, the U.S. Marshals Service Communications Center at 1-800-336-0102, or submit a tip using USMS Tips.

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All information was obtained from the U.S. Marshals Service website. CR Publications is not liable for any misinformation.

Purdue Northwest College of Technology awarded nearly \$6 million from National Security Agency

HAMMOND and WESTVILLE, Ind. – The Purdue University Northwest (PNW) College of Technology has been awarded a grant of \$5,971,053 for Cybersecurity Workforce Development from the National Security Agency (NSA). Since 2014, Purdue University Northwest has been a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education (CAE-CDE 4Y) designated jointly by the NSA and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

PNW Professor of Computer Information Technology and Director of the Center for Cybersecurity Michael Tu is the lead principal investigator for the grant, while Professor and Chair of the Department of Computer Information Technology and Graphics Keyuan Jiang, and College of Technology Director of Industrial Relations and Experiential Learning, Deborah Blades, are co-principal investigators.

“Receiving this highly competitive grant award of cybersecurity workforce development is a strong indication of cybersecurity education at PNW and expertise of our computer information technology faculty. This award will help fill the gap of shortage of cybersecurity workforce in this country,” Jiang said.

Beginning in September 2020, the two-year grant will allow Purdue University Northwest as the lead institution to collaborate with

Ivy Tech Community College, University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC), and University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC), to develop a pilot artificial intelligence (AI)-Cybersecurity certification-based national training program for more than 425 transitioning military, first responders, and other adult trainees. The training program will be offered online and free of charge to the trainees.

During the first year of the grant, this coalition will develop a hands-on based AI-Cybersecurity curriculum that contains 12 courses divided into three tracks. Topics include Windows and Linux computer technologies, cloud technology, network, python programming, cybersecurity fundamentals, ethical hacking, hardware security, computer and mobile forensics, artificial intelligence and machine learning. The training curriculum is expected to be mapped to existing courses in the cybersecurity programs at each participating institution. This will allow pathways to be created for trainees to pursue degree programs at PNW and other participating institutions.

During the second year of the grant, the three training tracks with 12 courses will be offered online to trainees who were recruited in Year 1 and Year 2 and each of them is expected to take six courses. Trainees are expected to take certification exams and to earn industry and government recognized certifications.

“As a Center of Academic Excellence, our bachelor of science degree in Computer Information Technology and its Cybersecurity concentration is recognized as one of the best cybersecurity programs in the nation,” Tu said. “We are looking forward to introducing highly capable professionals into the workforce to assist with cyber infrastructure on a nationwide level.”

“This project will provide further opportunities for workforce development in this specialized area of cybersecurity,” Blades added.

With the funded projects, PNW will be able to contribute significantly to national workforce development in the field of AI and cybersecurity. The U.S. Department of Labor reports that the need for IT and cybersecurity professionals is projected to grow 12 percent from 2018 to 2028 with multi-million shortages. According to the Gartner 2019 CIO Survey, the number of companies implementing AI, including machine learning and deep learning, “grew 270% in the past four years and tripled in the past year,” and “37% of the companies surveyed implemented AI.” Through the establishment of this national training program, a large number of qualified professionals will be trained to join the highly demanded workforce in the field of AI and cybersecurity.

Niaz Latif, dean of the College of Technology, stated, “This grant recognizes our faculty expertise and endorses PNW’s proven track record in the area of cybersecurity by the National Security Agency.”

Source: Purdue University Northwest



Michael Tu



Keyuan Jiang



Deborah Blades