

IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE CLASSES TO BE OFFERED IN CITY CENTER

Educational, economic development opportunities enhanced through partnership

Rushville, Ind. – October 16, 2015 – Another milestone is being celebrated in the ongoing progress of the Princess Theater-City Center with Ivy Tech Community College offering affordable, post-secondary classes at the site starting at the end of 2016 or beginning of 2017.

According to Mayor Mike Pavey, in addition to saving an historic downtown building, one of the main goals in repurposing this community icon is to provide a high tech, professional environment as a home for post-secondary educational opportunities.

“Ivy Tech has such a presence in Indiana and our region that partnering with this innovative educational institution was a natural fit for our project. Their leadership has a great working relationship with decision makers throughout the region, so hosting Ivy Tech classes in our City Center makes perfect sense,” Pavey said.

While Ivy Tech has offered classes in the area in the past, the new partnership is the first time the educational institution has partnered with the community in such an organized fashion.

“I am particularly excited because today’s news means Ivy Tech Community College is proudly proclaiming that Rushville specifically is a great place to gain a college education,” Pavey said. “We were confident that once Ivy Tech was interested, we could grow the idea together in using this centrally-located space to offer high quality, yet affordable college courses that will enrich residents’ quality of life while strengthening the economic development health of our community.”

With plans for Ivy Tech to occupy a quarter of the space on the first floor of the City Center (lower south side of the building) for a series of classrooms, visibility and ease of access means residents can take college level standard general studies courses along with more career-specific classes down the road as the curriculum is developed.

“We want to ensure the local availability of Ivy Tech courses benefits our workforce from both an employee and employer perspective. So over time, we are planning to blend specific courses related to what our Industrial Park companies are needing into the curriculum, thereby making our residents that much more marketable for quality careers right here in Rushville and Rush County,” Pavey explained.

Whether it’s getting college electives handled or focusing on advanced courses that benefit them professionally, leaders are hoping Rushville and Rush County residents from all age groups and education levels will take advantage of cost-effective college courses right in their own backyard.

The cost of classes has not been determined yet. Financial arrangements for Ivy Tech using the City Center space are being negotiated.

Technology will play a key role with the City Center connected to the community’s fiber network, allowing for Ivy Tech to offer plenty of flexibility in its classes, from teacher-driven to remote access to cutting edge technology of various types.

Other goals in repurposing the building that will create an anchor on the north side of the downtown area include encouraging a vibrant downtown, stability for culture, arts and entertainment, a gathering space for all types of community meetings and as a future home for city government administrative offices.

Pavey joined Ivy Tech officials, Rush County Economic and Community Development Corporation leaders, Partners in Progress representatives and members of the Princess Theater Steering Committee members at an 11:00 a.m. news conference this morning in front of the Ivy Tech space to announce the new partnership. Officials also unveiled a Perspective showing the project architect's visual depiction of the building during this morning's news conference.

The City Center is located at 328-330 North Main Street.

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For questions or interview requests, contact Mayor Pavey at 765-932-3735.