



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 14, 2023

For further information, contact:

Donna Kiesling

Assistant Director of Marketing & Communications

dkiesling@ivytech.edu

219-981-4940

Ivy Tech Lake County Names Top Dual Credit Instructor

LAKE COUNTY – Ivy Tech Community College’s Lake County campus has selected a Lake Central High School teacher as its Dual Credit Instructor of the Year.

Dawn Combis, who teaches Entrepreneurship classes for the college, was one of 19 individuals across the state selected by Ivy Tech campuses to receive the second annual Excellence in Dual Credit Instruction President’s Awards, the highest honor for Ivy Tech dual credit faculty. Winners were announced at a special ceremony recently outside Indianapolis.

The College honored each one of the winners for their excellence in instruction and their positive impact on the dual credit students that they served during the 2022-2023 academic year.

“I like being able to provide a college classroom feel in the comfort of a high school setting so that students build the skills needed for college without all of the pressures behind it,” Combis said. “I also like the relationships that are created and nurtured year-after-year with my Lake County partners. Having these relationships allows me to not only get critical questions answered quickly, but also helps me connect students to other programs that Ivy Tech has to offer.

“I think watching my students’ journeys is most satisfying, especially those students that start the year with some doubt and hesitation about all that is involved in my dual credit Entrepreneurship class -- from the application and entrance exams to coming up with innovative ideas to pitch, and then doing it. This is when some of my most memorable ‘proud teacher’ moments happen.”

“Dawn has the ability to engage her students because she develops trusting, productive relationships,” Rosie Lopez-Malagon, executive director of K-14 Initiatives at Ivy Tech Lake County, said. “She is patient, caring and kind. Dawn promotes a growth mindset in her classroom and inspires students to reach their full potential.”

“Dual credit faculty provide students with skills, knowledge and competencies aligned with clear career pathways and seamless college transfer,” Ivy Tech President Sue Ellspermann said. “Dual credit programming taught by credentialed high school faculty is of tremendous value to our students and our state. By helping students earn post-secondary credentials while in high school, we’re accelerating Indiana’s economic growth and Hoosier prosperity.”

The Excellence in Dual Credit Instruction President’s Award is modeled after the College’s President’s Award to recognize College faculty and adjunct faculty members from Ivy Tech locations throughout the state.

###

About Ivy Tech Community College

Ivy Tech Community College is Indiana’s largest public postsecondary institution and the nation’s largest singly accredited statewide community college system, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Ivy Tech has campuses throughout Indiana and also serves thousands of students annually online. It serves as the state’s engine of workforce development, offering associate degrees, short-term certificate programs, industry certifications, and training that aligns to the needs of the community. The College provides seamless transfer to other colleges and universities in Indiana, as well as out of state, for a more affordable route to a Bachelor’s degree. Follow Ivy Tech on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#) for the most up-to-date information.

###