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# ICC Blames Education Failures For State's Brain Drain

**DECEMBER 2022**  
**By Tabby Fitzgerald**  
**TheStatehouseFile.com**  
 The Indiana Chamber of Commerce released a report called "Indiana's Leaking Talent Pipeline" this week. This report includes findings about Hoosiers going to college, taking advantage of government programs like the FAFSA, and utilizing unemployment, concluding that Indiana needs to "lift up the educational attainment and workforce skills of its citizenry."

"We hear it from employers, and we see it in virtually every education and workforce statistic. It's that Indiana has a massively leaking talent pipeline," declares Indiana Chamber President and CEO Kevin Brinegar. The report found that fewer than half of all Hoosiers have an associate degree or high-quality credential (a certificate or certification), ranking the state 37th in the nation and lower than the U.S. average of 51.9%. Of Indiana's almost 80,000 high-school freshmen, only 89.6% graduated four years later. Of that number, 43.3% went on to enroll in college, and only 22.8% of that number completed college. The report notes that, in 2022, ILEARN results show only 30.2%

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# Hatfield Thanks Vanderburgh Citizens For Successful Term

**DECEMBER 2022**  
**By Kyra Howard**  
 After four years of public service as Vanderburgh County Commissioner and President of the Board Of Commissioners, Jeff Hatfield, District 2 (D), will finish his term this month. In December 2017, Former Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel asked Jeff to consider running for County Commissioner. Jeff said he would consider it, not knowing that conversation would lead to a quick political campaign, winning an election, and years of selfless, reliable service to Vanderburgh citizens. Jeff came into office with three goals: public safety, good roads,



and being accessible to his constituents. Keeping his promise to the people Jeff worked with the commissioners and county council members to get 85 miles of roads paved and raised the salary for County Deputies by 41% from 2021

through 2026. "Our law enforcement deserves professional pay," said Jeff. "I didn't do any of this on my own, every issue to solve or change in the County government must involve many people. It takes a lot of agreement and collaboration with people to make anything happen in County government." He said his approach to being County Commissioner was to get as many people involved as possible, to listen to them, speak with them and make decisions together. He also promised citizens he would be accessible, something he is very proud of working on every day.

**Continued On Page 8**

# IACC Honors Commissioners



**DECEMBER 2022**  
 This past week, the Indiana Association of County Commissioners (IACC) awarded the Vanderburgh County Commissioners the 2022 annual prestigious "Outstanding Team Effort Award" for their tremendous work on the county Broadband project. Teaming with AT&T, this is a \$40 Million project and will allow over 22,000 households in Vanderburgh County to have access to high-speed Internet by 2024. Pictured at left are Vanderburgh County Commissioners Cheryl Musgrave (R) and Ben Shoulders (D) accepting the annual award at the IACC conference in Indianapolis, IN.

# Sheriff-Elect Robinson Ready To Take Office

**DECEMBER 2022**  
 Evansville, Indiana – Chief Deputy Noah Robinson, a 22-year law enforcement veteran of the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office, will be the new Sheriff of Vanderburgh County starting January 1, 2022. elected Sheriff of Vanderburgh County. Sheriff-elect Robinson's campaign started in earnest back in January of last year, when he held an unorthodox, drive-in style campaign launch event during which he announced his candidacy for Sheriff of Vanderburgh County. Outside of the Vanderburgh County 4-H Center Auditorium, Robinson was introduced by City Councilman Ben Trockman to



an impressive gathering of on-lookers watching and listening from their vehicles. Trockman praised Robinson's commitment to public service and his dedication to helping others. Robinson took the stage and thanked Councilman Trockman for his support, as well as commended his campaign treasurer, Knight Township Trustee Kathryn Martin. Also sharing the stage with Robinson were Councilwoman Kaitlin Moore, City Clerk Laura Windhorst, City Councilwoman Missy Mosby, and Darmstadt Clerk-Treasurer Mallory Lowe. Robinson touted his 22 years in law enforcement as having al-

lowed him the opportunity to learn what it takes to successfully run a Sheriff's Office. At his announcement event, Robinson lamented the polarized nature of social media, stating that, "it seems that every issue we

confront has no middle ground." Robinson described himself as a pragmatist, eager to work with anyone interested in solving problems. Robinson criticized the "Defund

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# Commentary

## Ain't That America?

DECEMBER 2022

By John Krull

EVANSVILLE—This time, the mass shooting happened in Virginia.

A Walmart employee opened fire at the store in Chesapeake, Virginia, where he worked, killing at least six people. He also died.

This followed the mass shooting at an LGBTQ nightclub in Colorado Springs, Colorado. There, another gunman shot more than 20 people, killing five of them before heroic bystanders subdued him.

That followed another shooting in Virginia in which three University of Virginia football players were shot dead on the way back from a college field trip.

Which followed—ah, any number of other mass shootings.

Here in America, we have shootings at shopping malls.

We have them in churches.

In the workplace.

And, of course, in schools.

Lot of them in schools.

These shootings occur in states that have strict gun laws. They occur with even greater regularity in states that have lax gun laws. They take place everywhere, all the time.

That's because we are a nation

awash in guns.

The United States of America has less than 5% of the world's population. Americans, though, own more than half the guns in private possession on the globe.

There are, in fact, more guns than there are people in this country. The United States has a population of a little more than 332 million people.

The most conservative estimates of the number of privately owned guns in this country comes in at more than 400 million.

There are more than 20 million privately owned AR-styled firearms in America.

Those are the weapons favored by most mass shooters. In most other nations, such guns are restricted to military use.

Here in America, they're almost as easy to buy as a bag of potato chips.

America's curious relationship with guns has tragic consequences.

We Americans have watched for much of this year the horrors of the war Russia unleashed on Ukraine. Daily, we are appalled by the carnage of that conflict, the staggering body counts, ceaseless suffering.

The best estimates suggest that more than 32,000 people have lost

their lives in that brutal, inhumane war. That's a lot of death.

A lot of suffering.

A lot of grief.

But that is war.

Here in the United States in 2022, we already have lost nearly 40,000 lives to guns and gun violence. We have lost 25% more lives than two nations locked in a vicious and savage war. We have lost those lives at discount stores, on school buses, in churches, at nightclubs and, of course, in schools.

Lots of schools.

And we are—in theory at least—a nation at peace.

We Americans have fallen into a pattern with these shootings.

When they occur, we shake our heads in dismay. We offer expressions of sympathy to the community where the horror took place and to the people who lost loved ones.

We vow to do something about this ongoing tragedy. We assert that we will get serious about gun violence.

But we don't.

Instead, we allow ourselves to be held hostage by the special-interest spokespeople from the gun lobby. They stopped even pretending to try to make sense years ago, but still we let them hold the floor.

We let them write our laws.

We let them protect the guns and sacrifice the people.

And we listen to their nonsense while we do it. We listen to an Indiana state legislator spout drivel about how an entire community in Texas sacrificed schoolchildren as part of a "false-flag" operation aimed at coming to get his guns.

We treat such ravings with respect and ignore the suffering in our streets every day.

After each gun-related atrocity, we Americans say this is not who we are. We are better than this, we avow.

But maybe we aren't.

Maybe this is the country we want, one in which people must fear going to the store, to the mall, to the workplace, to church and even to school.

No other country on earth has this problem. We're alone—number one by a wide margin, with a bullet.

This time, the mass shooting was in Virginia.

Tomorrow, who knows?

**FOOTNOTE: John Krull is director of Franklin College's Pulliam School of Journalism and publisher of TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students. The views expressed are those of the author only and should not be attributed to Franklin College.**

## Amazon, The New Tower Of Babel

DECEMBER 2022

GAVEL GAMUT

By Jim Redwine

In Genesis, Chapter 11 God observed the tower that King Nimrod and his Babylonian people had built to reach heaven and the gods and said, "Behold the people is one and they have one language ... now nothing will be constrained from them."

So the gods destroyed the tower, convoluted one language into many, and stopped human progress toward godly status. The Tower of Babel was the ultimate example of the axiom, "Pride goeth before a fall." Now I do not understand why God would not want people to reach for the heavens, but He certainly devised

the perfect way to stop us. Of course, in Exodus Chapters 20 and 34, He warns us He is a jealous being and in Isaiah Chapter 55 He tells us not to try to figure Him out as His ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts are higher than our thoughts. Just a few frustrating moments of trying to understand what the jangling television commercials are saying or an attempt to make sense out of the song lyrics mumbled and slurred into multi-million dollar sound systems designed to make sounds intelligible, will remove any doubt that our contemporary cacophony of colliding incoherent babel surpasses all understanding. Human progress has been hoisted on the effete petard of the universal response to all attempts to communicate, "Huh?"

It is as if the gods have become overly concerned about humanity's movement back to a universal language, Amazonia perhaps, and have come down to earth to stop us from "all just getting along" by shopping over the Internet. After all, if we can communicate from sea to shining sea via a few simple electronic clicks, there is much less likelihood of a major miscommunication and ergo a misunderstanding that

might escalate to conflict. Heck, we might even learn to work together on all sorts of projects, world famine, global warming, the World Cup, who knows what heights we could reach?

Well, if Jeff Bezos is the new King Nimrod and if Jeff really does simply work full-time giving his

billions made from Amazon away to charity, I can foresee the Old Testament gods getting concerned. And one way to staunch human progress is to release upon the world Satans of the communications world, you know, movies, cable tv, commercials and what passes for contemporary music.

The goal of the gods might be to attack human progress by having leaders of competing countries such as China and the US of A rely upon translations of news broadcasts in which snippets of the highly paid but incomprehensible speakers instead of enunciating important concepts, peaceful coexistence for example, mumble a leader's language so that the words come out as threats of nuclear war.

Now I realize this whole column

**Continued On Page 3**



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# Community

## Rascher Announces Candidacy For Mayor

DECEMBER 2022

On December 3, 2022, Natalie Rascher announced her intention to seek the Republican nomination for the office of Mayor of Evansville in the 2023 election.

Natalie told those in attendance at her announcement event that "I was born and raised in Evansville, and after college chose to start my career and family here. I love this city and want to see it continue to grow so that natives and newcomers alike can live and work in a community that is safe, has good jobs, and values people."

"Evansville deserves a mayor that will continue building upon the great foundation that has been laid. To do this, we will need buy-in from all facets of our city. This can only be accomplished

with someone that leads with compassion, has empathy for others, and is willing to work with all of our community. I believe I am that person."

Natalie works in public accounting in human capital management and organizational development. She uses her expertise to ensure that her firm is an industry leader in not only attracting talent but also in retaining all its talent. She is a Certified Mediator and Trainer (MTI), and Conflict Dynamics Profile Practitioner (CDP). Her community involvement includes serving as the president of the Junior League

of Evansville, which works with many of our local non-profits to help our community's most vulnerable populations.

She has served on the Greenway

Advisory board, the Burdette Park board, the University of Southern Indiana's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Council, was a financial reviewer for the United Way of Southwest Indiana, and currently sits on the Vander-

burgh County Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. She previously ran for the Evansville 2nd Ward City Council seat and was defeated by a close margin.

Natalie has been recognized as a



Top 20 Under 40 recipient, a Phenomenal Woman honoree, and a Community Volunteer of the Year. While attending Purdue University, she was awarded the State Chairman's Award from the Indiana Republican Party for founding the state's first collegiate Women's College Republican Club.

Natalie attended Central High School before getting her bachelor's degree from Purdue University followed by a master's degree from Indiana University and her MBA from the University of Southern Indiana.

She and her husband Zac have two young children and a stepson. The Ranchers attend St. Benedict Catholic Church on Evansville's Eastside.

## Rokita Invites Hoosiers To Visit IndianaUnclaimed.gov

DECEMBER 2022

Stop, drop, and pass the rolls! Attorney General Todd Rokita invites Hoosiers to visit IndianaUnclaimed.gov to see if they have more than just casserole waiting this holiday.

"The last couple of years, Americans have been burdened with increases in their grocery bills, so extra cash in your wallet is a little gravy on top," Attorney General Rokita said. "My office is committed to serving the people and protecting their individual liberty. Getting unclaimed property back in the hands of Hoosiers is a

top priority."

Christmas is perhaps one of the most widely celebrated holidays of the year, so let's give 'em something to talk about this season. In 2021, Attorney General Rokita's office returned over \$48 million in unclaimed property to its rightful owners. This year alone, the Office has returned over \$50 million.

This holiday combines some of our favorite things – no work, no school, the company of good family and friends, and of course, tons of great food. But while you're sitting around the table,

it's also a good time to ask loved ones about assets.

Here's how to make sure your property doesn't go unclaimed:

Keep a record of all bank accounts.

Record all stock certificates and be sure to cash all dividends received.

Record all utility deposits, including telephone, cable, and electricity deposits.

Cash all checks promptly.

Update your address with all businesses when you move.

Talk to loved ones about any safe deposit boxes you own.

Once the unclaimed property is in its custody, the Unclaimed Property Division at Attorney General Rokita's office conducts outreach efforts to locate the rightful owners or heirs.

Individuals and/or businesses have 25 years to claim money once it is reported to the Unclaimed Property Division.

Over \$700 million remains to be claimed, so it's time to put away the leftovers and find something else to be thankful for at IndianaUnclaimed.gov or text CLAIM to 46220 to search your name, family, or business.

## Menu19 LLC Recalls Frozen Beef Dumpling Products

DECEMBER 2022

Menu19 LLC, a Modesto, Calif. establishment, is recalling approximately 5,001 pounds of frozen beef dumpling products that were produced without the benefit of federal inspection, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced today. The frozen beef dumplings were produced in November 2020 through October 23, 2022. The following products are subject to recall [view labels]:

1.5-lb. cartons containing 12 pieces of "Mantu menu19" and UPC code: 86000524010.

The product subject to recall does not bear the USDA mark of inspection because Menu19 LLC is not a federally inspected establishment. These items were shipped to restaurants and retail locations in California.

The problem was discovered during routine FSIS surveillance activities in retail stores when it was determined that the Mantu beef dumpling products did not have the USDA mark of inspection and were produced in an establishment that was not inspected by USDA.

There have been no confirmed reports of adverse reactions due to consumption of these products. Anyone concerned about a reaction should contact a healthcare provider.

FSIS is concerned that some product may in consumers' freezers. Consumers who have purchased these products are urged not to consume them. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase.

FSIS routinely conducts recall effectiveness checks to verify recalling firms notify their customers of the re-

call and that steps are taken to make certain that the product is no longer available to consumers. When available, the retail distribution list(s) will be posted on the FSIS website at [www.fsis.usda.gov/recalls](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/recalls).

Consumers and members of the media with questions about the recall can contact Naim Shahab,

Menu19, at 925-325-6234 or [naim.shahab@gmail.com](mailto:naim.shahab@gmail.com).

Consumers with food safety questions can call the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 888-MPHotline (888-674-6854) or live chat via Ask USDA from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Eastern Time) Monday through Friday.

## Amazon, The New Tower Of Babel

Continued From Page 2

may be based on a false premise of my being personally challenged. Maybe you, Gentle Reader, have no difficulty making sense out of what is muttered during TV, radio, movies, plays, concerts, sporting events, and even sermons. If my failings are simply my personal problem, good, and amen. However, if the whole world is being prevented from understanding

what the heck is truly being said and meant, I suggest this new Tower of Babel may soon come tumbling down.

On the other hand, there is a cure to this polemic pandemic, could everyone please slow down and speak up?

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# Community

## Rokita Leads Multistate Effort To Save Utility Companies

DECEMBER 2022

Attorney General Todd Rokita is co-leading a multistate effort to stop a Pennsylvania-based investment management company from imposing woke ideologies upon the business models of utility companies, potentially causing harm to investors and consumers.

"Once again," Attorney General Rokita said, "we're fighting the dangerous trend toward investment strategies that are designed not to maximize financial returns but rather to impose leftist social and economic agendas that otherwise could not win approval at the ballot box."

This latest case involves a move by The Vanguard Group Inc. to seek renewal of a blanket authorization for acquisitions of voting securities of publicly traded utilities. When the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission granted that authorization in 2019, however, it did so on assurances from Vanguard that it would refrain from investing "for the purpose of managing" utility companies.

Vanguard also guaranteed that it



would not seek to "exercise any control over the day-to-day management" of utility companies nor take any action "affecting the prices at which power is transmitted or sold."

Now, Vanguard's own public commitments and other statements have at the very least created the appearance that Vanguard has breached its promises to

the commission by engaging in environmental activism and using its financial influence to manipulate the activities of the utility companies in its portfolio

Vanguard has committed itself to the Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative and other climate-based alliances to get to net zero emissions. Given such activism, Vanguard cannot possibly have refrained

from interfering with or exercising some measure of control or influence over these coal- and gas-powered energy companies.

"So-called 'ESG investing' purports to be concerned with environmental, social, and governance issues," Attorney General Rokita said. "The advocates of this approach claim their activism does not interfere with making money, but they are deliberately trying to mislead the public about their ploys to subvert the will of the people for the sake of 'progressive' politics."

Along with Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes, Attorney General Rokita is leading a multistate effort to intervene in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's handling of this case.

"A hearing in this matter," Attorney General Rokita said, "is warranted to determine the extent to which Vanguard has violated the 2019 authorization and whether granting Vanguard a blanket authorization is contrary to the public interest."

## State Representative McNamara Reappointed As Chair Of House Courts, Criminal Code Committee

DECEMBER 2022

State Rep. Wendy McNamara (R-Evansville) today was reappointed to serve as chair of the House Courts and Criminal Code Committee. "This committee has been successful in vetting bills that reduce recidivism rates, reform juvenile justice policies and strengthen the state's criminal justice system for the safety of all Hoosiers," McNamara said. "As chair, I look forward to continuing that momentum in the upcoming legislative session and leading the charge."

House standing committee appointments are made by the Indiana House Speaker biennially after the November election and are in effect for the duration of members' two-year terms.

"I'm excited about the talents and wide range of experience that our chairs will bring to their committees, and I look forward to working closely with each of them," said House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers). "As we head into the budget session, we have many challenges and opportunities in front of us, and I'm confident in our team's abilities to vet and pass policies that put Hoosiers first."

House lawmakers are scheduled to convene at 1:30 p.m. on Jan. 9 for the first day of the 2023 legislative session. Hoosiers can visit [iga.in.gov](http://iga.in.gov) to find legislation, view calendars, and watch committee meetings and session. McNamara encourages constituents to visit [in.gov/h76](http://in.gov/h76) to sign up to receive e-



newsletter updates about what's happening at the Statehouse throughout the legislative session and beyond.

**FOOTNOTE: State Rep. Wendy**

**McNamara (R-Evansville) represents House District 76, which includes all of Posey County and a portion of Vanderburgh County.**

## Indiana State Lawmakers gather for Organization Day

DECEMBER 2022

By State Senator,  
Veneta Becker

Today, I gathered with fellow lawmakers at the Statehouse for Organization Day — the ceremonial start of the 123rd Indiana General Assembly.



swearing-in of new and returning members of the General Assembly. This day also marks the annual first roll call of all state lawmakers and gives each Senate and House of Representatives caucus the opportunity to organize in

preparation for the 2023 legis-

lative session. During the first session of each General Assembly, lawmakers craft a comprehensive budget to fund government services for the next two fiscal years.

It is always an honor to return to the Statehouse each session

to represent my district. The General Assembly will be working on our state budget this year, and it is important to me that we create legislation that assists Hoosiers where they need it most.





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# Community

## Evansville Police Department Joins 30x30 Pledge

DECEMBER 2022

Last week, the Evansville Police Department signed the 30x30 Pledge – a series of low- and no-cost actions that policing agencies can take to improve the representation and experiences of women in law enforcement. The activities help to police agencies assess the current state of a department with regard to gender equity, identify factors that may be driving any disparities and to develop and implement strategies and solutions to eliminate barriers and advance women in policing. These actions address recruitment, assessment, hiring, retention, promotion, and agency culture.

The Pledge is the foundational effort of the 30x30 Initiative – a coalition of police leaders, researchers, and professional organizations who have joined together to advance the representation and experiences of women in all ranks of

policing across the United States. The 30x30 Initiative is affiliated with the Policing Project at NYU School of Law and the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE).

The ultimate goal of the 30x30 Initiative is to reach 30 percent of women in police recruit classes by 2030 and to ensure policing agencies are truly representative of the jurisdiction the agency serves.

While 30x30 is focused on advancing women in policing, these principles are applicable to all demographic diversity, not just

gender. Nationally, women make up only 12% of sworn officers and only 3% of police leadership in the U.S.

More than 230 agencies from major metro departments including the New York City Police Department, to mid-sized, rural, university, and state police agencies have signed the 30x30 Pledge. The Pledge has based on social science research that

greater representation of women on police forces leads to better policing outcomes for communities. At EPD, we are honored to be among the first in the nation

to make this critical commitment, and we look forward to working with and learning from agencies across the country who share our priorities.

"We are grateful to the Evansville Police Department for being amongst the first in the nation to commit to being a part of this growing movement," said Maureen McGough, co-founder of the 30x30 Initiative, Chief of Staff of the Policing Project at the New York University School of Law, and former policing expert at the U.S. Department of Justice. "We believe strongly that advancing women in policing is critical to improving public safety outcomes. We look forward to having more agencies follow the Evansville Police Department's lead by signing the pledge and improving the representation and experiences of women in policing."



## Sheriff-Elect Robinson Ready To Take Office

Continued From Page 1

the Police" movement, calling it "misguided" and "divisive." He called such talk a "false choice" and stressed that we can improve police response to people in crisis through a variety of measures that do not involve cutting the budgets of law enforcement agencies.

Robinson pledged that he will aggressively pursue drug dealers who hook people on opioids, heroin, and methamphetamine while also showing compassion to the addict and providing intensive treatment to support their recovery. He stated, "We can hold people accountable for criminal behavior and provide justice to victims while also reducing recidivism through job training and life skills development."

Sheriff-elect Robinson made it clear that he supports and defends the 2nd amendment. Robinson stated he wants to, "ensure the ability of legal gun owners to defend their families, while also promoting responsible gun ownership and encouraging gun owners to keep their firearms away from children and secure from access by criminals." Robinson stressed that he supports the protection of our children in schools with highly trained school resource deputies who know how to form connections with kids and establish positive mentorship with students.

Robinson pledged to seek out the criminal elements within Vanderburgh County, while also listening to and respecting the concerns of the community. He further resolved to hire qualified candidates as deputy sheriffs, while also ensuring the formation of a staff that represents the diversity of the community.

Robinson ran a grassroots-style campaign throughout 2021 and into the May 2022 Primary. Overcoming a 2-to-1 fundraising disadvantage against his rival, Sheriff's Office Major Jason Ashworth. Robinson won the Democratic Primary with an amazing 59 percent of the vote.

He then focused his attention on the November General Election and his Republican challenger, retired Evansville Police Department Detective Jeff Hales. While Hales sought to paint Robinson as a liberal whose policies would harm public safety, Robinson struck a more moderate tone that emphasized collaboration.

The voters of Vanderburgh County apparently agreed with Robinson's message of moderate collaboration, as he was the only Democrat in a contested county-wide race to win in the November general election. Mr. Robinson amazing walked away with 71 percent of the non-straight ticket vote.

Sheriff-elect Noah Robinson is a Newburgh, IN native and Castle

High School graduate who moved to Vanderburgh County with his family nearly twenty years ago. Robinson attended the University of Southern Indiana, where he received an Associate's Degree in Social Science and a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology with an emphasis in Criminal Justice Studies. In 1998, Robinson was admitted to the Golden Key National Honor Society, an organization that extends membership invitations to students in the upper 15% of their class. In 1999, he was admitted to the Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society.

Following university, Robinson joined the Owensboro Police Department in 1999 and graduated from the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training Center in Richmond, KY. Robinson served the City of Owensboro until his appointment as a deputy with the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office in March of 2001.

Robinson became a field training deputy in 2003, where he spent eight years assigned to Motor Patrol. In February of 2004, Robinson received an award from the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. for his actions on January 24th, 2004. Robinson entered a frozen lake to check for occupants in a partially submerged vehicle. In March of 2007, Robinson received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Van-

derburgh Humane Society for assisting animals in danger during a house fire. In 2009, Robinson was promoted to the rank of sergeant and spent the next five years assigned to the Professional Standards Unit, where he developed policies and procedures for the agency as well as conducted internal investigations.

Robinson was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in June of 2014, assigned to headquarters, and placed in charge of information technology, public information, and grants. In October of 2018, Robinson was promoted to the rank of major and served as the executive commander of the Administration Division.

In December 2019, Sheriff Dave Wedding promoted Robinson to the rank of colonel and named him his new Chief Deputy Sheriff and second in command of the agency.

Sheriff-elect Robinson is a board member of the Highland Hills Challenger League Baseball Program and an active supporter of Youth Resources, the Salvation Army, the Evansville Rescue Mission, and many other local organizations too numerous to mention.

Sheriff-elect Noah Robinson met his wife Janie during high school. The two have been married for over 20 years, and together have three children, Kayla, Katie, and Kyle, as well as one grandchild, Adeline.



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# Community

## Recent Vanderburgh County Obituaries

For complete obituary go to the Funeral Home's Webpage

### ALEXANDER FUNERAL HOME

#### East

Betty M. Mayes	Oct. 24, 1929 – Nov. 06, 2022
Patrick K. Duggan	Jan. 06, 1964 – Nov. 07, 2022
Ethel "Vickie" Victoria Bruneault	Nov. 14, 1940 – Nov. 11, 2022
James L. Norton	Sep. 26, 1940 – Nov. 13, 2022
Cle Elmer Watson	Mar. 26, 1930 – Nov. 15, 2022
Dorothy Gaskin	Dec. 25, 1928 – Nov. 17, 2022
Linda Sue Clark	July 05, 1955 – Nov. 21, 2022
Annie Catherine Ellard	Apr. 13, 1947 – Nov. 24, 2022
Gail S. McGrail	Jun. 11, 1934 – Nov. 26, 2022
Sondra Josephine Davis	July 12, 1940 – Nov. 23, 2022

#### West

Margaret Alice Nelson	Jan. 14, 1936 – Nov. 02, 2022
Doris J Schoettle	Aug. 26, 1925 – Nov. 04, 2022
Lucia Board	Jan. 20, 1947 – Nov. 03, 2022
Dorena M Chaffin	July 06, 1939 – Nov. 07, 2022
Gayle Elaine Stokes	Jun. 18, 1951 – Nov. 08, 2022
Almetta "Joy" Blythe	Apr. 06, 1934 – Nov. 09, 2022
Marsha Christine Peach	Dec. 26, 1956 – Nov. 10, 2022
Maurice E. Thomas	July 29, 1943 – Nov. 16, 2022
June M Splittorff	Mar. 04, 1930 – Nov. 20, 2022
Dr. Sheryl "Sheri" Ziegler	Jan. 21, 1967 – Nov. 20, 2022
Doris Faye Jolley	Sep. 09, 1950 – Nov. 22, 2022
Julie K. Wolfe	July 21, 1968 – Nov. 27, 2022
Sarah "Pauline" Travers-Dunigan	Dec. 29, 1927 – Nov. 28, 2022
Jackye Labhart	Oct. 07, 1946 – Nov. 28, 2022
Michael W. Moore	Jan. 11, 1948 – Nov. 28, 2022
Jack Albert Frick	Aug. 28, 1935 – Nov. 29, 2022

#### North

Candace "Candy" S. Hunt	July 27, 1946 – Oct. 27, 2022
Thomas M. Speer	Nov. 24, 1934 – Nov. 02, 2022
Curtis Lee Hayden	Sep. 28, 1959 – Nov. 05, 2022
Linda S. Schraeder	Feb. 04, 1943 – Nov. 10, 2022
Deborah "Debby" L. Nachtnebel	May 06, 1950 – Nov. 10, 2022
Norman Wright	Aug. 03, 1930 – Nov. 25, 2022
Janet C. (Hasselbrinck) Wheeler	Sep. 28, 1940 – Nov. 29, 2022

### BOONE FUNERAL HOME

Amitbhai Patel	Mar. 20, 1980 – Nov. 04, 2022
Jeanne Kirk	Nov. 03, 1946 – Nov. 04, 2022
Gary McKinney	Nov. 29, 1952 – Nov. 04, 2022
Martha Edens	Jun. 28, 1966 – Nov. 05, 2022
Katherine Widick	Mar. 28, 1946 – Nov. 06, 2022
Scott Bergen	Mar. 05, 1964 – Nov. 08, 2022
Elizabeth Alford	Oct. 16, 1926 – Nov. 09, 2022
Cheryl Stroud	Jan. 04, 1950 – Nov. 10, 2022
Bulah Holt-Brown	Dec. 15, 1925 – Nov. 11, 2022
Becky Meador	Nov. 28, 1946 – Nov. 16, 2022
Robert "Bob" Morton	Aug. 20, 1933 – Nov. 17, 2022
Raymond "Pete" Harris	Aug. 23, 1925 – Nov. 18, 2022
Deborah Buttry	Sep. 01, 1953 – Nov. 18, 2022
Wanda Cannon	Feb. 12, 1939 – Nov. 19, 2022
Charles Brasher	Jan. 16, 1931 – Nov. 20, 2022
Margie Taber-Sutton	Oct. 01, 1922 – Nov. 25, 2022
William Hartley, Jr.	Aug. 12, 1964 – Nov. 27, 2022
George Curry	Aug. 24, 1940 – Nov. 28, 2022
Dorothy Schneider	Dec. 08, 1928 – Nov. 30, 2022

### MASON BROTHERS FUNERAL SERVICES

Anita Yvette Burris	Jan. 03, 1961 – Nov. 01, 2022
Loris Faye Gray	Jan. 10, 1966 – Nov. 02, 2022
Rev. James R. Smith Jr.	Jun. 23, 1947 – Nov. 03, 2022
Jimmie Tyus	Mar. 12, 1949 – Nov. 04, 2022
Harold Glenn Murphy	Oct. 03, 1955 – Nov. 09, 2022
William Henry Dixon	July 04, 1950 – Nov. 10, 2022
Thomas House Ferguson Jr.	May 08, 1963 – Nov. 12, 2022
George Tyler Jr.	Nov. 17, 1947 – Nov. 17, 2022
Harry David Gibson	Mar. 15, 1952 – Nov. 18, 2022
Ellen Marie Vaughn	Oct. 22, 1968 – Nov. 23, 2022

### PIERRE FUNERAL HOME

David Craig Knight	Oct. 31, 1994 – Nov. 01, 2022
Robert E. Snyder Sr.	Feb. 13, 1926 – Nov. 01, 2022
Arthur W. Merrick	July 15, 1941 – Nov. 02, 2022
Gloria Louise Lance	Jan. 14, 1944 – Nov. 02, 2022
Wayne Folz	July 17, 1946 – Nov. 04, 2022
Marla D. Debes	Mar. 17, 1962 – Nov. 05, 2022
Irene Louise Frantz Chandley	Aug. 13, 1947 – Nov. 06, 2022
William C. Stevenson	Jan. 22, 1931 – Nov. 12, 2022
Agnes Elaine Wink	Nov. 07, 1936 – Nov. 12, 2022
Candace Sue Knight	Aug. 13, 1945 – Nov. 19, 2022
Donald Ray Johann	Feb. 19, 1932 – Nov. 20, 2022
William L. Casper Jr.	Feb. 01, 1972 – Nov. 20, 2022
Robert Reid Wilson	July 27, 1934 – Nov. 21, 2022
Della Mae Word	Apr. 11, 1932 – Nov. 21, 2022
Christie L. Nemer	Mar. 10, 1961 – Nov. 26, 2022
Gene Walker Maxwell	May 09, 1929 – Nov. 26, 2022
Rellah June Turpin	Sep. 26, 1944 – Nov. 28, 2022
James R Fischer	Mar. 16, 1952 – Nov. 28, 2022
Steven Wayne Koch	May 26, 1959 – Nov. 30, 2022

### ZIEMER FUNERAL HOME

Claudia McGinn	July 18, 1944 – Nov. 01, 2022
Shirley Lorentzen Weber	Feb. 16, 1929 – Nov. 04, 2022
Daniel Powell	Oct. 03, 1963 – Nov. 04, 2022
Leanna (Miles) Hornick	July 26, 1968 – Nov. 05, 2022
Rita Isabelle Greder	Nov. 17, 1930 – Nov. 11, 2022
Terry D. Grimes	Dec. 08, 1939 – Nov. 13, 2022
Joan Ellen Kimbrell	Oct. 11, 1951 – Nov. 13, 2022
Wilda M. (Davis) Weaver	Aug. 16, 1931 – Nov. 14, 2022
Keith S. Brown	Dec. 19, 1963 – Nov. 05, 2022
Ray Lambert	Nov. 28, 1934 – Nov. 15, 2022
Ruth M. Killian	Oct. 14, 1935 – Nov. 15, 2022
Thomas W. Allen	July 07, 1963 – Nov. 16, 2022
Jerry Lee Brenner	Apr. 27, 1943 – Nov. 17, 2022
Linda Sue Harris	May 04, 1966 – Nov. 17, 2022
Timothy Christopher Corcoran	Apr. 26, 1966 – Nov. 18, 2022
Rita M. Clements	Feb. 18, 1943 – Nov. 21, 2022
Carolyn Putnam	July 31, 1952 – Nov. 22, 2022
Betty Ellen Crabtree	Feb. 08, 1925 – Nov. 23, 2022
Kathrine Fuchs	Oct. 23, 1933 – Nov. 25, 2022
Donald R. Pearce	Dec. 17, 1943 – Nov. 26, 2022
Thomas F. Pirnat	Feb. 03, 1928 – Nov. 28, 2022
Janette Amelia (Stippler) Wempe	Sep. 25, 1921 – Nov. 30, 2022
Walton "Babe" (Boykin) Scheberle	Nov. 14, 1932 – Nov. 30, 2023



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# Community

## ICC Blames Education Failures For State's Brain Drain

**Continued From Page 1**

of students were proficient in math/English—an increase from 28.6% in 2021. However, the Chamber notes that the “results from 2021-22 show that nearly one in five students (18%) has not mastered foundational reading skills by the end of third grade.”

“Students who are poor readers at the end of third grade are likely to remain poor readers throughout their life. They even are less likely to graduate on time or may never receive their high school diploma,” said Lynn Schemel, director of assessment for the Indiana Department of Education.

Reactions came from the Indiana Coalition for Public Education, a nonpartisan advocacy organization made up of parents, grandparents, educators, retired superintendents and community members, including three former state superintendents: Dr. Suellen Reed, Glenda Ritz and Dr. Jennifer McCormick.

“How does the Chamber claim the ILEARN as a reflection of failure when this is a new test (2019? just before Covid?) and the scores can't be compared with the ISTEP when it's a different test? Also, how valid are any test scores during the massive disruption and crisis of the worldwide pandemic?” said Cathy Fuentes-Rohwer, president of the Indiana Coalition for Public Education, in an email to [TheStatehouse-File.com](http://TheStatehouse-File.com).

One section of the report is titled “Too Many School Districts.” This section goes on to state that the 289 school districts in Indiana are “far too many” and “serve to restrict student achievement.”

However, Fuentes-Rohwer dis-



agrees.

“I also find it ironic that the Chamber (and I lump them in with the state legislature because they have been very supportive of what they call ‘education reform’: the laws affecting the classroom, the expansion of ‘school choice’ and public tax dollars going into private hands through vouchers or privately run charter schools, online schools, Education Savings Accounts, and more) is concerned with the number of school districts in Indiana and its consequences for Hoosier students,” she said.

“The number of schools and ‘systems’ of schools has skyrocketed since 2011. Charter schools open and close with the supposed whim of the ‘market,’ leaving children scrambling for other schools, uprooting them and disrupting their learning. Where is the consequence for this? Where is the \$154 million that has been stolen from Indiana

taxpayers by the Indiana Virtual School and Indiana Pathways Virtual Academy?”

Meanwhile, two of the government programs highlighted in the report that is offered for students who are interested in attending college are not being utilized. These two programs are FAFSA, the Free Application For Student Aid, and 21st-Century Scholars.

FAFSA is a free application that students seeking higher education can fill out to determine if they are eligible to receive financial aid. Indiana has one of the lowest completion rates in the country at not quite 44%, compared to the national average of 57%.

“Successful 2022 legislation will ensure that families receive information about the FAFSA and its importance in accessing resources to pay for postsecondary education,” the report states. “However, the Legislature once again failed to

enact legislation to make completing the FAFSA a default expectation for high school seniors (even with multiple opt-outs).”

Indiana offers a 21st Century Scholars program that provides free college tuition for low-income students who graduate from high school and have completed the preparatory activities. However, this report found that only 40% of income-eligible students enrolled in the program and that fewer than 50% of those students completed the requirements in order to earn the scholarship.

“That participation level is shockingly low because students don't know about it or have the support to apply. What needs to happen is for every qualified student to be made aware and automatically enrolled,” Brinegar asserts.

The report states that 29% of 18-year-old Hoosiers will finish college and stay in Indiana. Of the 60,370 postsecondary graduates in Indiana, nearly 40% will leave within one year of graduation and over half within five years. The report states that those lost graduates “could go a long way towards addressing Indiana's talent shortages” and that the “incentives for graduate retention should be seriously considered.”

“It is troubling to me that the Chamber of Commerce and the Indiana legislature aren't taking any responsibility for the “brain drain” and failure of our state to provide employers with a college-educated workforce,” Fuentes-Rohwer said.

**FOOTNOTE: Tabby Fitzgerald is a reporter at TheStatehouse-File.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.**

## Hatfield Thanks Vanderburgh County Citizens

**Continued From Page 1**

“It starts with simply answering the phone,” said Jeff. “A county commissioner, to me, is most citizens' first line of defense. Meaning any problems that they have, most often, they should be able to call a county commissioner to get help.”

He does not want people to lose faith in their officeholders.

“I met some very committed officeholders these last 4 years,” said Jeff.

He emphasized that aspiring officeholders and current office-

holders must always remember who they work for.

“They need to listen more. Talk less. Decide what is in the best interest of the most people, not special interest groups,” said Jeff.

He noted that the job of County Commissioner is time-consuming—if you do “the work.”

Jeff wants to continue serving the community but in a way that allows him to keep his own business commitments going. Jeff is the Owner of Core Contractors, Inc. a Commercial and Multi-Family Construction

company in Evansville, Indiana.

He had to make a tough choice when it came to re-election.

“I decided early in my term to give this four good full years. I'm not going to care if anyone even knows who I am,” said Jeff. “I am just going to help solve problems, so I'm proud of that.”

Leading, communicating, listening, and being present in the community came naturally for Jeff. He wants voters to always expect politicians to solve problems collaboratively, no matter their political

affiliation. He noted he may have future involvement in politics or even running for office again, but for now, he is focused on his family, and his customers and continuing to serve the community in other ways.

“I can't thank this community enough for giving me this opportunity to help out. I will always look back on this time as one of the highlights of my life,” said Jeff. “I can't thank them enough, for trusting me enough, to give me that opportunity.”

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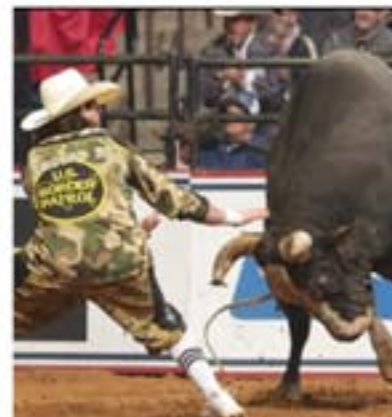
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# WHERE WE'VE BEEN & WHERE WE'RE GOING



## A LOOK AT EVANSVILLE'S 2022 HIGHLIGHTS + A LOOK AT WHAT'S COMING IN 2023!

From concerts and riverboats to rodeos and square dancers, Evansville welcomed thousands of visitors to our river bend this year! Take a look at the top hospitality news from 2022 and sneak a peek into what's next for the River City.



Deaconess Sports Park attracted elite level tournaments with a \$3 million synthetic turf installation this year. These improvements also extended the playing season while avoiding cancellations. Sports tournaments at DSP accounted for over \$12 million in economic impact in 2022.



Evansville welcomed the American Heritage over a series of 6 stops in 2022. More than 600 visitors enjoyed our attractions, restaurants and downtown businesses. This project took some incredible work and dedication from community leaders, hospitality partners, and volunteers! Everyone looks forward to hosting more stops in the future.

Evansville PRB and Rally Point Events hosted two rodeos in 2022. The Evansville PBR Challenger Series, hosted at the Ford Center and the Bulls & Ghouls rodeo at the Vanderburgh Co 4H Fairgrounds. Make sure to get your tickets for the 2023 Evansville PBR Challenger Series rodeo on May 26th, 2023 at the Ford Center.



Old National Events Plaza hosted more than 2,000 dancers from around the world in June 2022 for the National Square Dance Convention! Square dancers filled the convention center, most other venues across Evansville, hotels, and campgrounds nearby. The convention generated over \$1 million in economic impact for our community!



The Holiday Inn Express, located in Downtown Evansville, opened its doors in May 2022. This property features riverfront views, 79 sleeping rooms, 1,000 sq feet of meeting space and free breakfast!



Evansville welcomed visitors to the 47th Annual Frog Follies over the summer. This massive festival, hosted at the Vanderburgh County 4H fairgrounds, is the largest pre 1949 car show in the world and attracts visitors from all over the country.

## COMPANY'S COMING!

Our team works year-round with hundreds of event planners to bring major events and conventions to our River City! Scan the code to subscribe to our E-Tourism Newsletter, and be the first to know about upcoming meetings, conventions and tournaments!

**Jehovah's Witness Ministry Convention | June 2-4, 2023 and June 9-11, 2024**  
 Combined Weekend's Estimated Direct Economic Impact: \$3.8m  
 Combined Weekend's Estimated Total Room Nights: 12,000

**Indiana Society of Association Executives | July 24-26, 2023**  
 Estimated Direct Economic Impact: \$115k  
 Estimated Total Room Nights: 175

**Indiana Tourism Association Convention | March 11-13, 2024**  
 Estimated Direct Economic Impact: \$78k  
 Estimated Total Room Nights: 200

**Indiana Criminal Justice Association | October 8-11, 2024 and October 5-8, 2027**  
 Combined Year's Estimated Direct Economic Impact: \$426k  
 Combined Year's Estimated Total Room Nights: 490

**Indiana Society of Professional Land Surveyors Annual Convention | January 15-17, 2025**  
 Estimated Direct Economic Impact: \$357k  
 Estimated Total Room Nights: 520

**National Fishing Lure Collectors Club Convention | July 10-12, 2025 and July 8-10, 2027**  
 Combined Year's Estimated Direct Economic Impact: \$488k  
 Combined Year's Estimated Total Room Nights: 1,400



# Education

## Neal To Serve As USI's First Director of Pathways

DECEMBER 2022

EVANSVILLE – Dr. Brandi Neal has been named the Director of the Pathways to College Program, effective Monday, December 5. She will report to Dr. Khalilah Doss, Vice President for Student Affairs.

Neal will be responsible for the overall planning, coordination and daily operations of the Pathways to College Program with an emphasis on serving diverse populations. The program will have a direct emphasis on recruitment and retention, a key component in the 2021-25 University strategic plan.

In addition to serving diverse pop-

ulations and providing equitable and inclusive resources and environments, Neal will also be responsible for the determination of program needs, formulation of corresponding action plans, and engagement with faculty and staff to provide student success and support program activities and services.

Neal has served as Post-Doctoral Fellow in Student Affairs at USI since 2019. She also serves on the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Council; African Studies Committee; Student Affairs Recognition and Awards Committee; Student Affairs Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Council; and Employee Outreach and Engagement Committee. Neal taught as an Instructor for the USI College of Nursing and Health Professions UNIV course in 2020.

Prior to her work at USI, Neal served in several research-based roles at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

She holds a bachelor's degree in

psychology from USI; a master's degree in education policy organization and leadership from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and a doctorate in education policy organization and leadership (concentration in the sociology of education and higher education) from the University of Illinois at



Urbana-Champaign.

## Vincennes University-UBMK Partnership Expands

DECEMBER 2022

VINCENNES - Vincennes University and the UBMK School have signed a memorandum of understanding that will create new educational and transformative opportunities for UBMK students in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

UBMK was established in 1998 by the Korean missionary association in Mongolia. It is the only K-12 Korean International school approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of Mongolia. After graduating from UBMK, students can continue their education at an American university or Korean university.

According to the UBMK Director of International Affairs Dr. Elin Jung, "Our students will have the opportunity to apply their learning in more settings, amongst more people in the future. They will not be constrained to Mongolia or Korea. Our students now have the chance to achieve their dreams, thanks to Vincennes University. With the provision of the MOU from Vincennes University, they can study in the United States. It is an attractive and encouraging path for both parents and students."

According to VU President Dr. Chuck Johnson, "The new agreement with UBMK represents a great addition to VU's existing international partnerships, and we look forward to building a lasting relationship that will benefit generations of UBMK students."

With the goal of nurturing global talents who can love their country

and serve in the international community based on upright character, faith, Korean identity cultivation education, and exclusive STEM education, the UBMK School provides specialized foreign language education with required English and Mongolian language education, customized career guidance, and domestic and overseas vision trips during the school year.

UBMK students have strong aspirations of studying abroad, and Jung believes that VU will offer them a great opportunity because of the investment VU makes in its students.

VU has transfer agreements with many learning universities, including Purdue and IU in Indiana, that will allow UBMK students the opportunity to transition smoothly from VU.

During Jung's multi-day visit to the Vincennes Campus in mid-November, she was enthusiastic about the University's exceptional programs, facilities, and resources.

"The staff and faculty's warmth, humility, and hospitality were delightful," she said. "The Vincennes University department of mechanical engineering, anatomy lab, nursing class, and homeland security class and building were all engrossing and supremely informative. It was impressive to observe, learn, and simply experi-

ence our time at Vincennes."

VU continues to build international partnerships that support enrollment and create access and opportunities for students no matter where they live.

Emerging from the pandemic, VU has seen an increase in international enrollment. As travel restrictions have been lifted or relaxed, there are more opportunities for international students to enroll at VU. Many students are studying on the Vincennes Campus, while others are getting a jump start on their education by enrolling in VU's new international online cohort pro-

gram, launched during the pandemic. The online cohort program currently enrolls students from China, Korea, and India, and provides an accessible and affordable pathway to attending VU.

Through a combination of initiatives and despite the impact of the pandemic, the University has doubled international enrollments since 2016. The uptick is helping to further diversity in the student population and is exposing VU students to more global cultures and experiences. More than 22 countries are represented at VU this fall, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, France, Greece, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Netherlands, Spain, South Korea, Taiwan, and Vietnam.



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## UE Scholarship Transparency Gets Top 100 Rating

DECEMBER 2022

The University of Evansville (UE) recently received an "A" grade for scholarship transparency from University Business. UE was one of just over 100 institutions across the nation that achieved this top ranking.

University Business based its scholarship transparency ranking on clear, easily accessible information pertaining to merit scholarships. The organization also took into consideration whether or not institutions figure merit scholarships into their Net Price Calculator projections. Because there are no transparency requirements in issuing merit-based scholarships, it's up to each

institution how upfront they choose to be when communicating scholarship details.

Approximately 650 schools were graded by University Business based on the clarity of requirements and amounts awarded, along with consistency in the application process. Those who received "A" grades provided specific merit scholarship amounts rather than "wide dollar ranges," as explained in the report. They also provided well-defined criteria on their websites.

UE's scholarship opportunities, which include merit-based scholarships, can be found at [evansville.edu/scholarships](https://evansville.edu/scholarships).



# Education

## USI Partners On \$2.5 Million Collaborative Grant

DECEMBER 2022

The University of Southern Indiana Mathematical Sciences Department is expanding its work to enhance the current state of undergraduate teacher preparation for data science and statistics through a portion of a five-year, \$2.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation. The project, "Collaborative Research: Enhancing Data Science and Statistics Teacher Education – Transforming and Building Community," is a collaboration between USI, North Carolina State University (NCSU), Eastern Michigan University (EMU) and the Concord Consortium. USI will receive an estimated \$175,000 from the project.

Nationwide, there are efforts underway to heighten the attention to data and statistics in secondary mathematics curriculum. An increasing number of careers rely on the ability to make data-informed decisions. The Collaborative Research grant focuses on how teachers are prepared to address these needs.

The project will get underway by collecting and analyzing data on the current state of undergraduate teacher preparation, researching both early-career secondary math teachers and preparation programs for mathematics teachers. It will also build a teacher education networked improvement community through partnerships with national organizations and



provide professional development opportunities for faculty members across the nation who prepare future teachers.

Dr. Rick Hudson, Chair of the Mathematical Sciences Department, Professor of Mathematics, and Co-Principal Investigator on the project, says at its conclusion, the collaborative team will develop, curate, and disseminate high-quality data science and statistics teacher education curriculum materials. "We will enhance and expand our existing modules to develop materials in support of mathematics teacher educators and establish a web-based hub to share teacher education resources," Hudson says.

"We will also enhance capabilities of the Concord Consortium's Common Online Data Analysis Platform (CODAP), a tool for teaching with statistics to better support data modeling and sampling simulations."

In addition to Hudson, Dr. Stephanie Casey, Professor of Mathematics Education at EMU; Dr. Gemma Mojica, Research Scholar at NCSU; and Bill Finzer, Senior Scientist at Concord Consortium, are serving as Co-Principal Investigators on the project. The Lead Principal Investigator on the project is Dr. Hollylynne Lee, a Distinguished Professor of Mathematics and Statistics Education at NCSU.

The same five collaborators, including Hudson, partnered on an earlier grant project from 2016-22, titled "ESTEEM (Enhancing Statistics Teacher Education with E-Modules)," which resulted in the development of web-based modules for teaching future mathematics teachers about statistics. The current grant extends that work.

"The new grant will allow our team to work toward systemic change across the nation by broadening our reach to additional higher education institutions and partnering with professional organizations and statistics teacher education initiatives," Hudson says.

## Ivy Tech CC Honors Distinguished Alumni

DECEMBER 2022

EVANSVILLE – Ivy Tech Community College has honored Malachi Greb, of Evansville, as one of 18 individuals across the state selected to receive the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award, the highest honor given to recognize Ivy Tech Alumni. Selected through a highly competitive process, each recipient has made a lasting impact on their community and on Ivy Tech through outstanding professional, philanthropic, or volunteer accomplishments.

"These individuals exemplify service and leadership in extraordinary ways," said Ivy Tech President Dr. Sue Ellspermann. "Our distinguished alumni prove that an Ivy Tech education equates to career fulfillment and economic prosperity, and I am honored to witness how the College has played a role in their continued lifelong success."

Greb, an associate of applied science graduate in Advanced Auto-

mation and Robotics and Industrial Technology, has spent the past 10 years sharpening his skills in the automation industry. In 2020, he launched his own company, Elite Automation, specializing in the design, programming, and installation of industrial automation systems.

His nominator said he stood out as a student, always taking on big projects and completing them. He took a manual labor, industrial maintenance type job with a robotics company while going to Ivy Tech. But, his nominator said, he used that opportunity and environment to learn more. He spent his free moments seeking out additional work and asking to try higher-level jobs.

Then, in 2019 he began working to

create his own company, but soon after doing so, the pandemic swept across the nation. The nominator said that while this presented a challenge as companies were holding off on projects, Greb focused on making his business stand out through social media posts on YouTube, LinkedIn, and others. Elite Automation ranks highly on LinkedIn for social media presence for automation companies and has more than 12,000 followers.

Sales in 2021 were approximately \$1 million, and his team has grown to

15 employees. His nominator said when other students would step back on a challenging job, Greb stepped up and worked on projects beyond what the class content covered. He has continued his problem-solving by growing his company through a pandemic. "The fact that he graduated from our community college and has sights on growing his company to be one of the largest in the world is amazing," the nominator said.

Alumni, faculty, staff, and friends are all encouraged to make nominations. Awardees must be graduates of Ivy Tech, having received an Associate Degree, Technical Certificate, or Certificate.

The College has been honoring Distinguished Alumni since 1998.



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# Sports

## IU Swimmers Post 3 NCAA Qualifiers

DECEMBER 2022

BLOOMINGTON – It was a night of memorable moments for Indiana swimming and diving as the Hoosiers produced three automatic qualifiers for the 2023 NCAA Championships and set a program record in the final night of competition at the Ohio State Fall Invitational Saturday (Nov. 19) inside the McCorkle Aquatic Pavilion.

It started in the first final of the evening session as sophomores Ching Hwee Gan and Mariah Denigan went back-to-back in the 1,650-yard freestyle, posting NCAA B cut times of 16:05.69 and 16:08.72, respectively. Senior Mikey Calvillo went a B cut 14:53.70 to place third in the men's race.

Sophomore Anna Peplowski earned her third individual win of the week in the 200-yard backstroke after becoming just the fourth Hoosier woman ever to hit 1:52 in the event.

Her time, 1:52.00, beat her previous career best (1:53.04) by over a second. Fellow sophomore Elyse Heiser posted her third top-10 finish of the meet in the same race, going 1:55.80 to place sixth and earn a B cut. Senior Brendan Burns clinched IU's sweep of the 200 back, going 1:40.66.

In the 100-yard freestyle, the Hoosier men placed fourth, fifth and sixth via senior Van Mathias (42.60), sophomore Rafael Miroslaw (42.78) and junior Gavin Wight (42.83). Freshman Kristina Paegle continued her solid week with a runner-up finish in the women's race, going 48.15.

IU's breaststroke group stole the show. In the women's 200-yard breaststroke A final, senior Noelle Peplowski beat her preliminary time by over three seconds and threw down a 2:05.52, automatically qualifying her for the national meet. The swim made Peplowski the second-fastest

woman in the event in program history, trailing only Olympian Lilly King. The senior was one of four Hoosier A finalists in the women's race as sophomore Brearna Crawford (2:09.41) placed fourth, senior Mackenzie Looze (2:10.96) took fifth and Catherine Graham (2:15.11) finished 10th.

The IU men took three of the top four spots in the 200 breaststroke. Sophomore Josh Matheny (1:51.68) and junior Jassen Yep (1:53.17) went 1-2 and junior Maxwell Reich (1:53.69) was not far behind in fourth. The trio represented the top three qualifiers from the prelim session and all finished top four in the 100-yard event on Friday as well.

Freshmen Katie Forrester and Lily Hann impressed in the women's 200-yard butterfly, finishing third and fourth, respectively, with times under 1:58. Junior Tomer Frankel won the men's event with a 1:42.72 mark as junior transfer Armando Vegas went 1:45.77 to place fourth.

Sophomores Quinn Henninger and Carson Tyler put on a masterclass

on the platform Saturday night, finishing first and second. Henninger won with a score of 416.55, posting three dives better than 70 points. His teammate was close behind with 412.65 total points while not recording lower than 64 points on any of his six attempts.

The Hoosier women closed the meet with a program record and an NCAA A cut in the 400 freestyle relay. The quartet of Anna Peplowski, senior Ashley Turak, junior Ella Ristic and Paegle clocked a 3:13.45 to shatter the mark previously set by Morgan Scott, Christine Jensen, Shelby Koontz and Bailey Andison, who went 3:14.32 in 2019. In lane four, the Hoosiers trailed by a fraction of a second to Ohio State in five through 300 yards. The freshman Paegle, with OSU senior Amy Fulmer right beside her, outpaced her opponent with a blazing fast 47.07 split in the anchor leg to grab the win. Her time would have been the third-fastest split at the national meet last season.

## UE Volleyball Trio Named MVC All-Conference

DECEMBER 2022

ST. LOUIS – Giulia Cardona, Kora Ruff and Alondra Vazquez each received Missouri Valley Conference postseason honors as the league announced its All-Conference squads on Saturday.

Cardona and Vazquez were named to the All-MVC First Team while Kora Ruff earned a spot on the All-Freshman squad.

Alondra Vazquez was named to the All-MVC First Team for the third consecutive season. She was also an All-Freshman honoree in 2018. Vazquez is set to complete a stellar career that saw her break the Purple Aces career kills record. The 5-time MVC Player of the Week in her career currently has 1,864 kills, which is 4th-best in MVC history.

She led the MVC in kills once again with an average of 4.75 per set. In her time at Evansville, Vazquez has accumulated 5,351 attacks, which set the program record and will finish second in the league record books.

Giulia Cardona joins Vazquez on the First Team. The 2021 MVC



Freshman of the Year was named to the All-MVC Second Team last season. Her 24-kill performance against Indiana State saw her break the Evansville single season kills record. Currently sitting with 508, Cardona passed Vazquez' mark of 494 versus the Sycamores.


The top effort for Cardona saw her register 25 kills at Southern Illi-

nois. Her average of 4.23 kills per set put her second in the Valley, trailing only Vazquez.

Kora Ruff picked up a spot on the All-Freshman squad. With 1,232 assists in 2022, she ranks fourth in the nation and second among all freshmen nationally. With 10.27 helpers per frame, Ruff is 4th in the league. As the season has wound

down, Ruff has been at her best. Over the last 13 matches, Ruff has recorded an average of 11.28 assists.

Ruff has reached the 50-assist mark in a match on five occasions with her top total of 58 coming in a win over Missouri State. Defensively, Ruff has notched at least five digs in 29 out of UE's 32 contests.



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# Sports

## USI Announces 3 Hoops Signees For 2023-24

DECEMBER 2022

EVANSVILLE – The University of Southern Indiana Women's Basketball announced that 5-foot-11 guard/forward Sophia Loden (Mascoutah, Illinois), 6-foot-2 center Chloe Gannon (Manchester, Tennessee), and 5-foot-10 guard Kylee Dennis (Lexington, Kentucky) have signed national letters of intent to compete for Head Coach Rick Stein's Screaming Eagles in 2023-24.

"We are so excited to welcome Sophia, Chloe, and Kylee to our Screaming Eagles family!" Head Coach Rick Stein said.

Loden, from Mascoutah High School in Illinois, was named to the 2022 Illinois Basketball Coaches Association All-State Third Team for Class 3A, 2022 Associated Press All-State honorable mention, and the 2022 Mississippi Valley Conference Co-Player of the Year. She has also been on the Mississippi Valley All-Conference teams throughout her high school career, receiving first-team honors in 2022, second-team laurels in 2021, and honorable mention accolades in 2020.

In her junior 2021-22 season, Loden averaged a double-double at 22.7 points per game and 12.5 rebounds per game. She also tallied 3.6 steals per contest and 112 total. Loden entered her senior year of high school with 1,068 career points.



"Sophia is a versatile player that can change the game in many ways," Stein stated. "She plays with a lot of energy and is a great competitor."

Gannon is from Coffee County Central High School in Tennessee. The center averaged 13.6 points per contest in her junior season in 2021-22, shooting at a 57 percent clip. She also claimed five rebounds and had over one block per outing. The District 6-4A MVP helped lead her high school to its 5th consecutive district title last year.

Gannon entered her senior season with 432 career points, 173 rebounds, and 41 blocks with a

career field goal percentage of 54 percent.

"Chloe is a post player that can make plays both at the low and high post," said Stein. "She has good size and is a tough finisher in the paint."

Dennis, out of Sayre High School in Kentucky, averaged 15 points per game in 2021-22 to earn a Kentucky Junior All-Star Team selection. She was also named All-State Third Team, All-Region First Team, and All-District First Team as a junior.

In 2020-21, her sophomore season, Dennis averaged 24 points per contest, finishing 8th in Kentucky in scoring. She

reached the 1,000-career points plateau and received All-Region First Team and All-District First Team accolades as a sophomore.

"Kylee is a lengthy combo guard with a great feel for the game," Stein commented. "She is a playmaker that can create for herself and her teammates."

Dennis also played club basketball for Kentucky Premier 17U Milby EYBL.

The three signees will be USI Women's Basketball's first true freshman class of the program's NCAA Division I era in 2023-24 following the return of an experienced group with no freshmen on the 2022-23 roster.

## Otters Sign Dominican Trio For 2023 Season

DECEMBER 2022

EVANSVILLE, Ind. - The Evansville Otters have begun building the 2023 roster with the signings of Audry Perez, Yoel Yanqui and Jomar Reyes.

Perez, a Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic native, is a former major leaguer, spending time with the St. Louis Cardinals as an injury call-up in the 2013 and 2014 seasons.

Perez signed with the Cardinals organization in 2008 as a rookie and played throughout the system until 2015, when he moved over to the Baltimore Orioles organization. From 2015-18, Perez bounced around the Double-A and Triple-A affiliates of Baltimore. Since then, Perez has played in the Dominican Winter League.

In 700 games in the minor leagues, Perez has clocked a .270 BA, with 693



hits, 68 home runs and 376 RBIs.

Yanqui, originally from Palma Soriano, Cuba, is a hard-hitting utility man with time in the Arizona and Cincinnati organizations. Most recently, he was with the Reds' Double-A affiliate

Chatanooga in 2021.

In his four years of minor league

ball, Yanqui has a .284 BA, with 353 hits, 20 home runs and 173 RBIs.

Yanqui has played multiple years in the Dominican and Venezuelan Winter Leagues.

Reyes, another Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic native, is a sharp third baseman with over 500 games of minor league experience.

After six years of minor league baseball in the Baltimore Orioles system, Reyes had a .269 BA, with 540 hits and 248 RBIs.

Reyes has also played in the Dominican Winter League since 2018.









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# Entertainment

## ONEP Broadway Series Tickets On Sale

DECEMBER 2022

EVANSVILLE – The Old National Events Plaza and Nederlander National Markets are thrilled to announce the 2022-2023 Broadway in Evansville season! This season is headlined by the nine-time Tony® Award-winning Best Musical, The gorgeous Lincoln Center production of My Fair Lady, the return of Riverdance in The 25th Anniversary Tour, and closing with the all-new tour of the beloved family musical, Annie. Subscriptions for new and renewing subscribers are available beginning Monday, August 1st. On-sale dates for individual tickets will be announced at a future date.

“The upcoming season offers some of Broadway’s most loved classics, plus a few action-packed shows, so there is truly something for everyone,” notes Nick Wallace, The Plaza’s General Manager. “We look forward to welcoming our season subscribers and guests back to Aiken Theatre for Broadway this fall.”

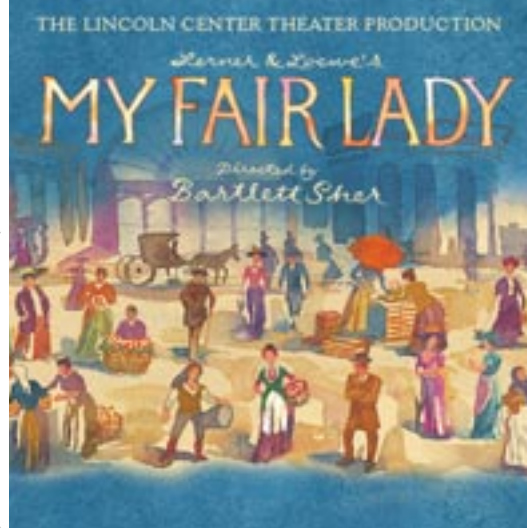
**My Fair Lady | February 5, 2023**

From Lincoln Center Theater

which brought you The King & I and South Pacific, comes “a sumptuous new production of the most perfect musical of all time” (Entertainment Weekly), Lerner & Loewe’s MY FAIR LADY. Director Bartlett Sher’s glowing production is “thrilling, glorious, and better than it ever was” (New York Times).

“Every so often a revival comes along that reminds you how indispensable great theater can be” (NY1).

Boasting such classic songs as “I Could Have Danced All Night,” “The Rain in Spain,” “Wouldn’t It Be Lovely” and “On the Street Where You Live,” MY FAIR LADY tells the story of Eliza Doolittle, a young Cockney flower seller, and Henry Higgins, a linguistics professor who is determined to trans-



form her into his idea of a “proper lady.” But who is really being transformed?

**Riverdance The 25th Anniversary Tour | March 30, 2023**

Riverdance 25th Anniversary Show is Riverdance, as you’ve never seen it before! A powerful and stir-

ring reinvention of this beloved favorite celebrated the world over for its Grammy Award-winning score and the thrilling energy and passion of its Irish and international dance. Twenty-five years on, composer Bill Whelan has rerecorded his mesmerizing soundtrack while producer Moya Doherty and director John McColgan have completely reimaged the groundbreaking show with innovative and spectacular lighting, projection,

stage, and costume designs.

Immerse yourself in the extraordinary power and grace of its music and dance—beloved by fans of all ages. Fall in love with the magic of Riverdance all over again.

**Annie | April 10, 2023**

Holding onto hope when times are tough can take an awful lot of determination, and sometimes, an awful lot of determination comes in a surprisingly small package. Little Orphan Annie has reminded generations of theatergoers that sunshine is always right around the corner, and now the best-loved music of all time is set to return in a new production – just as you remember it and just when we need it most.

Annie, directed by Jenn Thompson, features the iconic book and score, written by Tony Award®-winners Thomas Meehan, Charles Strouse, and Martin Charnin. This celebration of family, optimism, and the American spirit remains the ultimate cure for all the hard knocks life throws your way.

## Shen Yun Brings Chinese Culture To ONEP Stage



DECEMBER 2022

Evansville – Through breathtaking dance and music, Shen Yun’s performance retells the story of a time when divine beings walked the earth, leaving behind a culture that inspired generations. Ancient Chinese wisdom, infused with Buddhist and Taoist spirituality and values, gave birth to everything from medical innovations to opera, dance, architecture and martial arts. Shen Yun is a brilliant artistic revival and celebration of China’s historically rich cultural legacy.

Audiences are amazed by how vibrant, exciting and profound classical Chinese culture can be through the classic stories of love and loss, and of humor and heroic deeds. Each performance consists of 20 quickly mov-

ing pieces, transitioning from one legend, region, or dynasty to the next. Themes range from the delicate elegance of Tang court ladies to the battlefield heroics of valiant generals, through timeless philosophical works and spectacular scenes of magical realms.

Shen Yun’s works convey the extraordinary depth and breadth of genuine Chinese culture, bringing five thousand years of civilization back to life on stage! Fans can visit [www.shenyun.com](http://www.shenyun.com) for more information.

Shen Yun will perform at Old National Events Plaza Friday, February 1, 2023, at 7:30 pm.

Tickets are available at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com) or the Old National Events Plaza Box Office.

## USI Ceramics II Students Present The Lamp Project

DECEMBER 2022

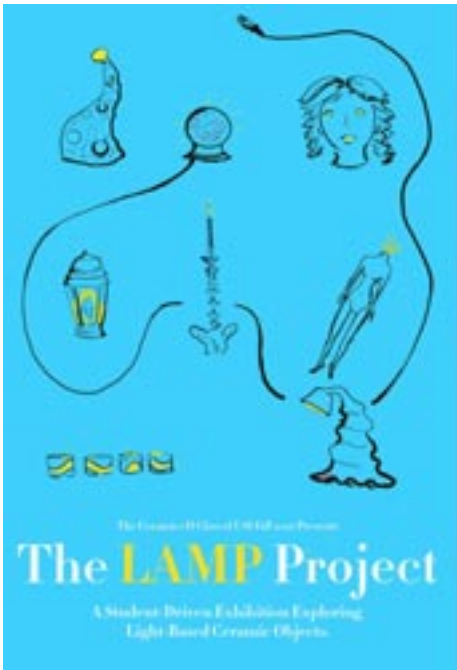
The University of Southern Indiana and BG Projects is proud to present The Lamp Project, a group show featuring ceramic installations by USI Ceramics II students at the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art (NHGCA) in New Harmony, Indiana. The exhibition will be on display on December 17.

The Lamp Project is an experimental student-driven exhibition, that explores functional ceramics through the material of light-giving objects. The lamp as a form provides a useful touchstone to explore the aesthetic values of the handmade and the more familiar aesthetics of consumerism and material culture. Ranging from the cute, the kitsch, the hungry, the romantic, and the occasionally austere, each individual contribution offers a thematically

playful and unique approach to both form and content.

Artists featured in the exhibit include Ashley Banks, Lunar Bowen, Caro Burks, Elizabeth Garland, Zoe Lawrence, Mia Mitchell, Katherine (Kassi) Norton, Katelynn Roy, Jaeda Thompson, and Leanne Werkmeister.

NHGCA is dedicated to enhancing the experiences of students through BG Projects, an artist-run exhibition space in the back gallery. BG Projects at NHGCA allows students to exhibit, experiment, and/or curate within a working contemporary art gallery setting. Through an exhibition and curatorial strategies, students can envision new possibilities for collaborations and their art practice. NHGCA promotes discourse about and access to contemporary art in the Southern Indiana region.



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