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Indiana University-Purdue University Statement of Purpose:
An Elaboration of the University Mission Statement

Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne [IPFW] is a state-assisted university serving Indiana's second-largest city and the surrounding region. The majority of its students (82%) are drawn from nine contiguous counties in Northeast Indiana; all commute or live nearby in nonuniversity housing. The group includes both traditional and nontraditional students; the average student age is 27; a minority (39%) are enrolled full-time.

As the only comprehensive university in the region, IPFW serves a diversity of functions for a variety of constituents. It offers an unusually wide range of certificate, associate, and baccalaureate programs, but as yet only a small number of graduate programs, all at the master's level. It also serves students who wish to take a single course or group of courses and over 13,000 students a year who enroll in noncredit programs. Since 1986-87, enrollment has increased roughly 4% a year, and headcount now exceeds 12,000. Student services have been enhanced, and, with community support, the campus has instituted an NCAA Division II athletic program.

Academically, the campus is organized into six schools or divisions. Arts and Sciences, Business and Management Sciences, Fine and Performing Arts, and Health Sciences contain departments granting both Indiana University and Purdue University degrees. Engineering and Technology offers only Purdue degrees; Education, only Indiana. Other entities, such as the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs and School of Medicine, offer programs at IPFW with varying degrees of campus affiliation. IPFW is accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Individual schools and programs are accredited by appropriate agencies.

IPFW's mission has steadily evolved since the initial stages of the merger of the Indiana University and Purdue University Fort Wayne regional campuses in 1964. While the campus continues to provide Northeast Indiana with programs linked to and maintaining the special excellences of Purdue and Indiana universities, it has also emerged as a unique institution, with a growing national reputation and strong local support. Long-range goals of the campus are continued improvement of undergraduate teaching; expansion of library collections and other forms of undergraduate research support; increased academic and fiscal autonomy; expansion of facilities to accommodate increased enrollment; attraction and retention of a more heterogeneous student body; increased outside funding of faculty research; expansion of graduate programs, as warranted by identifiable regional needs; and greater integration with the economic and cultural communities of the region.

The fifth-largest public university in Indiana, IPFW has grown in size without sacrificing its commitment to faculty-student interaction in undergraduate education. Classes are relatively small; senior professors regularly teach freshmen and other undergraduate students. These strengths set IPFW off from larger research institutions, with their focus on graduate education, and make the campus particularly effective in bringing nontraditional or underprepared students into the mainstream of higher education. In planning for the future, the campus intends to emphasize this strength, defining itself as a resource not only for its region, but for other students who value the benefits of solid undergraduate teaching. Teaching quality will continue to be a major criterion for faculty compensation and promotion-and-tenure decisions; it will also continue to be recognized through awards for and other acknowledgements of distinguished teaching. To attract and retain outstanding teachers, the campus will continue its effort to bring faculty compensation to a level at least equal to that at comparable institutions.

To improve teaching, IPFW will sustain and enhance its support of undergraduate and master's-level research. The Helmke Library collection will be given support adequate for its role as a central facility for student research. The campus will also acquire the resources necessary for making computer usage a feature of university education across the curriculum.

The history of IPFW is a history of mergers. The campus has sought to meld the best and most appropriate elements of the Indiana University and Purdue University systems into a single, coherent university. Much progress has been made, and the process is continuing. IPFW seeks to be perceived as an attractive alternative for students seeking undergraduate education or, in selected programs, graduate education, regardless of their intent to study on a full- or part-time basis. Success in accomplishing this goal will be founded, in part, on the continued willingness of Indiana University and Purdue University to support the evolution of their relationships with IPFW.

Since 1964, when two academically separate regional campuses moved into a single building on the newly acquired Fort Wayne campus, IPFW has grown into a cluster of eight academic buildings, with two additional under construction, and appropriate supporting structures. A gift of additional land by a consortium of local donors has increased the size of the campus to 566 acres, including land on the east and west banks of the St Joseph River. IPFW has room to grow, and increased enrollment will necessarily lead to additional construction of classrooms and other university facilities.

IPFW has committed itself to preparing the students of Northeast Indiana for productive lives in a multi-cultural, transnational world. The campus has always given special attention to bringing university education to nontraditional students. It will continue its efforts to increase matriculation and retention of minority students--and, in a related effort, to hire and retain minority faculty. Recent enrollment increases also reflect a growing number of students from the lower 50% of their high school class, admitted under special conditions. The campus will continue its programs of academic support for these students, along with those intended for students with outstanding ability. Because diversity of student body and staff is an essential component of the university experience, IPFW also intends to attract a somewhat larger number of students from outside its region. To this end, and to accommodate verifiable local demand, campus plans include establishment of a limited number of student residences.

IPFW stresses the constructive interrelationship between teaching and research. Most IPFW faculty devote 25% of their effort to research. Some receive support from internally funded summer fellowships and grants-in-aid. Other support is also available through the Purdue University and Indiana University systems. External grants and contracts now regularly account for over \$1 million a year; as the institution matures, this amount will continue to grow and therefore play a larger role in campus funding and in the development of facilities available for faculty research. These activities reflect the research missions of Indiana and Purdue universities; however, projects tend to involve individuals or small groups of researchers rather than large staffs and facilities, and special emphasis is placed on studies directly related to regional needs and interests and on research conducted by faculty and undergraduate students. These emphases will continue; however, other kinds of research projects may develop as external funding becomes available.

The number of graduate programs at IPFW has increased more slowly than at comparable urban institutions, in part because the campus has focused its resources on undergraduate teaching, in part because new programs are subject to rigorous academic review. Currently, master's degrees are offered in Biology, Business, Chemistry, Communication, Education, Engineering, English, Liberal Studies, Mathematics, Public Affairs, and Public Management. The campus anticipates eventually offering master's programs in many of the basic arts-and-sciences disciplines as well as in the professional schools. No doctoral programs are planned at this time; proposals for such programs would reflect unique opportunities or specific regional needs.

IPFW plays an important role in the cultural and economic life of Northeast Indiana. Faculty community service is and will continue to be encouraged. The campus maintains and expects to strengthen its relationship with community arts organizations; and it seeks additional opportunities to make itself a vital resource for business, industry, public and private education, and government in Northeast Indiana. Retraining of the workforce and response to changes in the economy will be important priorities in years to come, as will efforts to improve services for an increasingly diverse student body. The campus seeks to organize its efforts and its relationships with Indiana University and Purdue University in ways that will enhance its ability to anticipate and respond to regional needs. The continued development of the campus, with community support engendered by this development, will allow IPFW to meet the increasing demand for higher education in Northeast Indiana.

MISSION STATEMENT

Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne

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