



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Ivy Tech, Habitat for Humanity Form Partnership To Assist Habitat Families with College Degree**

Habitat for Humanity and Ivy Tech Community College today (6-15-17) announced a partnership to offer career counseling and scholarship funding to assist Habitat homeowners and their families to attain a college degree.

IvySucceed will help individuals to understand where their strengths lie, to set goals, and to determine next steps to earn a degree. For those who have already earned a degree or certificate, Ivy Tech will provide assistance with interview skills and resume development. Habitat and Ivy Tech have also partnered to provide \$10,000 in scholarship funds in this pilot program to assist a minimum of five individuals through completion of their college degree.

The announcement was made as a part of Habitat's annual Faith in Action Breakfast, where Ivy Tech President Sue Ellspermann, was the guest speaker.

In addition, Ivy Tech's Visual Communication program will build an App for Habitat, for homeowners to have an easy way to track their "sweat equity" hours that each individual must fulfill. Ivy Tech will also provide one college credit to all who have completed the Habitat Homeowners Money Management Seminar Habitat offers.

"We are pleased to partner with Habitat and help homeowners and their children through the IvySucceed initiative," said Jonathan Weinzapfel, chancellor of Ivy Tech in Evansville. "Housing brings family stability, and education brings family self-sufficiency. Helping individuals succeed

by determining their skill sets and career goals – and matching that with the use of federal financial aid and scholarships – will help those who desire to go to college, to realize their goals.”

“Habitat for Humanity helps families achieve strength, stability and self-reliance through homeownership. Combined with the strong educational foundation that Ivy Tech provides, a family can reach that next level in life – however they define it,” said Beth Ann Folz, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Evansville. “IvySucceed is an exciting initiative which brings together the synergy of a stable home with the opportunity of education for a good-paying, in-demand job in the community.”

Individuals interested in this opportunity should go to [www.ivytech.edu/habitat](http://www.ivytech.edu/habitat) to fill out an interest form to receive more information.

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**About Ivy Tech Community College:** Ivy Tech Community College is the state's largest public postsecondary institution and the nation's largest singly accredited statewide community college system. Ivy Tech has campuses throughout Indiana. It serves as the state's engine of workforce development, offering affordable degree programs and training that are aligned with the needs of its community along with courses and programs that transfer to other colleges and universities in Indiana. It is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association.

**About Habitat for Humanity of Evansville:** Seeking to put God’s love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope. Founded in 1984, Habitat is anchored by the conviction that housing provides a critical foundation for breaking the cycle of poverty. By partnering with the community, Habitat enables low-income families to become homeowners in Vanderburgh and Posey counties. To be eligible for homeownership, individuals or families must have an income at or below 80 percent of the area median income. They must also have a need for housing, a willingness to partner by contributing 300 hours in sweat equity and attending homeownership classes, and have the ability to pay a 25-year, no-interest mortgage. For more information, please visit <http://www.evansvillehabitat.org>.

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