

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 8, 2023 NEWS RELEASE

For further information, contact:

Donna Kiesling

Asst. Director of Marketing & Communications

219-981-4940

dkiesling@ivytech.edu

**Ivy Tech Lake County Honors Faculty**

LAKE COUNTY -- Every year, each campus at Ivy Tech Community College selects one full-time faculty and one adjunct faculty to be honored with the President’s Award for Excellence in Instruction. This award honors their accomplishments both in and out of the classroom.

This year, Ivy Tech’s Lake County campus has chosen **Dr. Dawn Bancsi**, chair of the Physical Therapist Assistant program, as its full-time faculty winner and **Christine Weatherby**, longtime English instructor, as its adjunct honoree. Both will be recognized at campus Commencement ceremonies at the Steel Yard, 5th and Broadway, Gary, on Friday, May 12.

Bancsi has been PTA chair at the Lake County campus for 15 years. She is also CEO, senior physical therapist and co-owner of Balanced Therapy and Wellness in Michigan City. Bancsi joined Ivy Tech in 2001 and has been a pediatric and neurorehabilitation therapist for more than 25 years. She began her career at Ivy Tech as an adjunct faculty member at what was then the Michigan City campus. She also served as adjunct faculty at Governors State University in Illinois and was owner and physical therapist at Optimal Potential Therapeutics in Highland.

Bancsi has a doctorate in physical therapy and will receive her Ph.D. in performance psychology in October. She also has a master’s degree in physical therapy. She has served on various college and professional committees and was the recipient of an Award for Excellence in Postsecondary Education from the Indiana Department of Education.

“This award acknowledges the encouragement of lifelong learning, which I promote in the PTA students and emulate as encouragement,” Bancsi said. “I appreciate the nominating committee providing this opportunity in acknowledgment of my efforts to create learning opportunities and environments to engage all students. I am very honored.”

Christine Weatherby has been an adjunct professor in the Lake County Campus English department for more than 10 years. She also has served as an online mentor for English. Her recent years have been spent teaching a variety of secondary education courses. In 2019-2020, Weatherby received the Notre Dame AP-Tip teacher of the year award. She also has worked during the summer helping to grade College Board AP exams and served as head coach for East Chicago Central’s speech/debate team.

Weatherby has an Ed.S degree in curriculum and instruction, a master’s degree in English, a master of arts in teaching with an emphasis in teaching language arts, and a master of arts in religion, for which she did an internship in Rwanda. She is working towards a Ph.D. in educational technology and recently became Ed Tech coordinator for the Lake County campus.

“It is an honor to be considered for such a prestigious award,” Weatherby said. “The greatest reward is having the opportunity to wake up each day and to be part of a team of thoughtful and talented individuals, all striving together to fulfill the mission of changing lives. That is a purpose which is truly meaningful and one which has lasting value long after we have gone.”

###

**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*](https://www.facebook.com/ivytech)*,* [*Twitter*](http://www.twitter.com/ivytechcc)*,* [*Instagram*](http://www.instagram.com/ivytech)*, and* [*LinkedIn*](https://www.linkedin.com/school/ivy-tech-community-college/) *for the most up-to-date information.*