

## GO FORTH, BE TRUE, BE BRAVE, BE SUCCESSFUL!

New student undergraduate enrollment is up by more than 4 percent, and the number of students in career preparation programs has increased by 14 percent, the largest number of students in these programs since 2019. This increase in new, undergraduate degree-seeking students reverses a five-year dip of new student enrollment and is part of a pattern of positive news related to overall fall enrollment, including the academic quality of new students at IUP.

A total of 551 students are eligible for graduation in December and January 2023—363 bachelor’s degree recipients, 153 master’s degrees; 30 doctoral degrees, and 5 associate degrees. Nine undergraduate students are completing their studies with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average.



IUP President Michael Driscoll and Pennsylvania Highlands Community College President Steve Nunez signed a dual admissions program agreement in September, designed to streamline the process for students who earn an associate degree at Penn Highlands to complete a bachelor’s degree program at IUP.

IUP shattered its 2022 Giving Tuesday goal, raising \$41,337 from employees, alumni, students, and friends during the 24-hour period. This year’s effort surpassed the 2021 total by \$12,000. During the last five years, this event has raised more than \$146,500 to benefit students.



IUP’s athletic teams had a standout fall semester. Men’s golf won its fourth consecutive and 32nd overall PSAC team championship, women’s volleyball returned to the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2017, and football won the PSAC championship and advanced to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Division II playoffs.

During the next two years, IUP’s Special Collections and University Archives will partner with faculty and students from the IUP departments of English and History on a project to document the impact of COVID-19 on the campus and in the community.

Angelique Alcantara (economics) and Owen Zablocki (sociology) have been selected from a pool of exemplary nominees to be the inaugural Justice Research Fellows at IUP’s Administration and Leadership Studies Research and Training Center. The Justice Research Fellowship will allow Alcantara and Zablocki to participate in real, practical mini-research projects with IUP faculty during winter and spring 2023 semester.



IUP celebrated Jane E. Leonard and Dr. Charles ‘65 and Donna Cashdollar with the dedication of Jane E. Leonard Hall (the former Humanities and Social Sciences building) on Nov. 28. “Aunt Jane” was IUP’s first faculty member. She served the university for 45 years and was instrumental in securing IUP’s future. The Cashdollars are authors of *The IUP Story: From Normal School to University*, a history of the university, with a special chapter devoted to Leonard’s legacy. “Go Forth, Be True, Be Brave, Be Successful!” was Leonard’s traditional charge to the graduates.

## A CENTURY OF “THE LEGEND”



More than 900 alumni and friends returned to campus to celebrate 100 years of IUP’s Marching Band, “The Legend,” in November. The event included the screening of a video about the band’s signature piece, “Amazing Grace,” produced by Mary Megna ’84, and Jarrell Verbecken ’18.

## SECURING NATIONAL AND STATE HONORS

The university is ranked, for the 29th consecutive year, as one of the “Best National Universities” by *U.S. News & World Report*. IUP is also one of only two public universities in Pennsylvania ranked as a “Top Public” university and is one of only 24 universities in the state—both public and private—selected for the National Universities listing. IUP is also included in the “Top Performers in Social Mobility” ranking, one of only 24 universities in Pennsylvania selected for this recognition.

Praised for “delivering on its promises” of affordability and quality programs, IUP has been selected for the *Princeton Review’s* “Best Colleges” guidebook for the 22nd consecutive year. In addition, IUP’s Health Service was included in the “Best Health Services” ranking, one of only 25 college and university health services selected for the list.

IUP’s Applied Archaeology Master of Arts program is the first program in the nation recognized by the American Cultural Resources Association as the top academic program in the United States that prepares students for success in the field of cultural resource management.



Vice President for Student Affairs Thomas Segar has been selected for a volunteer leadership role in a national organization working to make leadership training for youth more accessible. Segar has been named as one of only 26 inaugural Aspen Index Senior Impact Fellows, all experienced leaders in higher education, who are committed to coming together to advance the future of youth leadership development.

IUP has been selected by a nonpartisan organization, @allintovote, in its inaugural list of “Most Engaged Campus for College Student Voting,” one of only four public universities in Pennsylvania selected for this recognition.



Retired FBI agent Debra Evans Smith, ’81, a 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, was selected as the inaugural “Keeper of the Flame” award by Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education for her longstanding contributions to diversity, equity, and inclusions efforts at IUP.

## EXCELLENCE IN CYBERSECURITY and TECHNOLOGY

IUP has received its largest single grant—\$11 million—from the Department of Defense for a multi-year project to enhance cybersecurity and STEM education in Pennsylvania. IUP received initial funding of \$4.98 million in September for the first three years of the project. Grant author and team leader is Waleed Farag (computer science, director of IUP’s Institute for Cyber Security).

Farag also secured \$203,130 from the National Center of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity Program, managed by the National Security Agency, to support a qualified student seeking a doctoral degree in cybersecurity, and \$731,090 in funding from the NSA to develop cybersecurity solutions for contemporary work habits, including remote working environments.

IUP has been approved for a \$1-million project as part of the Southwestern Pennsylvania New Economy Collaborative \$62.7-million federal Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant awarded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration. The funding will be used for data analytics, geospatial intelligence, artificial intelligence, robotics and STEAMshop initiatives.

Jeff Montgomery (Information Technology) has been selected by the Pennsylvania Banner Users Group for the lifetime emeritus award, one of only 10 people selected for this award over the organization's 23-year history. IUP is one of only two PABUG universities with multiple award recipients. IUP's Chief Information Officer, Bill Balint, was honored with the designation in 2015.

## A COMMITMENT TO RURAL HEALTH



IUP and Indiana Regional Medical Center celebrated National Rural Health Day on Nov. 17 with the launch of a podcast, "Rural Health Pulse." The podcast includes professionals from IRMC and from IUP and is recorded by students in the Department of Communications Media under the direction of Mark Piwinsky. It is produced by Christina Koren, director of strategic partnerships. Jim Kinneer, IRMC's chief human resources officer, serves as host for the shows. The podcasts are part of a continued collaboration between IUP and IRMC on the topic of rural health care.



U.S. Senator Bob Casey Jr. recently convened a roundtable discussion at IUP to address rural healthcare workforce and economic needs—and opportunities—in western Pennsylvania, specifically connected to IUP and to Indiana Regional Medical Center.

## GREAT NEWS FOR THE ACADEMY OF CULINARY ARTS

IUP will receive \$2.9 million for the Academy of Culinary Arts' long-range building plan as part of the 2022-23 State System capital allocations budget for the university. An additional \$18 million is projected in the capital budget through 2025-26. The \$22 million building project will replace an outdated facility and allow increased enrollment for the program.

## HONORING VETERANS AND SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE



Five graduates who served during the Vietnam War organized a rededication ceremony for IUP's Vietnam Veterans Memorial in its new location in front of IUP's Pierce Hall—marking the 40th anniversary of the original dedication of the memorial. About 100 students, university employees, and community members—many of them veterans—attended the rededication ceremony, held on Veterans Day.

*Military Times* selected IUP as one of the top four public universities for members of the military in its 2022 Best for Vets: Colleges list.

For the fourth consecutive year, IUP has been selected for the Pennsylvania National Guard Associations Guard Friendly School designation, one of only 30 chosen for the designation.