

Julius W. Edwards, Ph.D.

HIGHER EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Ivy Tech Community College (2011 – current)

Ivy Tech Community College is one of the nation's largest singularly accredited community colleges. It serves over 168,000 students annually and is Indiana's only community college with 19 campuses and over 50 sites across 92 counties.

Sector Vice-President, School of Business, Logistics & Supply Chain, School of Public Affairs & Social Services, and Garatoni School of Entrepreneurship & Innovation (9/2021-Current)

- Strategically guided the College's 19 campuses across diverse disciplines, including Accounting, Business Administration, Culinary Arts, Supply Chain Management, and more, aligning academic programs with emerging industry trends to ensure long-term institutional relevance and student success.
- Secured full-time ride scholarships with the Risk Insurance Management Society, fostering opportunities for students in high-demand fields.
- Pioneered the creation of a crosswalk with RecycleForce, enabling justice-served individuals to earn a supply chain credential, exemplifying a commitment to inclusive education and workforce re-entry.
- Raised \$750,000 in pre-seed donations for the entrepreneurship program, positioning the College as a leader in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship education.
- Led establishing the School of Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management, Indiana's only public-accredited culinary program, showcasing a commitment to excellence and expanding the College's programmatic offerings. Developed a \$15 million case for support proposal for the Development Office's capital campaign.
- Collaborated with One Financial to create a talent pipeline from associate degrees to the Certified Financial Planning designation, addressing the financial sector's workforce needs.
- Implemented a 4DX process with the schools' deans to focus on student retention, resulting in a 4% increase in fall-to-fall retention rates.
- Leveraged advanced data analytics (Department of Workforce Development, Clearinghouse, Tableau, Lightcast) to propose initiating or closing campus programs, ensuring that resources are aligned with student and workforce needs.
- Launched a Midwest campaign to reengage retiring truck drivers, increasing enrollment in 13 commercial driving programs by 13% and addressing regional labor shortages.
- Developed and implemented flexible Direct Support Mental Health credentials in collaboration with the Family and Social Services Administration, addressing critical workforce gaps and enhancing the College's role in community health.
- Expanded and utilized occupational crosswalks to create seamless pathways for students, while increasing enrollment and program completion rates.

- Negotiated an 11% cost reduction in commercial driving training across 13 campuses, bolstering the College's competitive edge and accessibility for students.
- Partnered with the Indiana CPA Society to offer scholarships and create a clear pathway for accounting students to meet the 150-credit-hour eligibility for the CPA exam, strengthening the College's accounting program.
- Spearheaded a crosswalk training program with the MAAC Foundation - Emergency Services Training Campus, leading to a 7% increase in Fire Science enrollment and creating an academic pathway for regional public safety officials and firefighters.
- Secured \$20 million in state funding for commercial driving training, expanding access and positioning the College as a leader in addressing statewide workforce needs.
- Piloted a commercial driving program for individuals in the Plainfield Correction Facility in partnership with key stakeholders, showcasing a distinctive approach to education for underserved populations while expanding the talent pool of commercial drivers.
- Co-developed a Department of Defense Procurement Certification with Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center, aligning the College's offerings with national defense industry needs.
- Teamed up with the Indiana Community Health Workers Association to create a rapid pathway for students to earn a Community Health Worker Certification in less than eight weeks, addressing urgent public health workforce needs.
- Collaborated with Human Resources on initiatives to recruit and retain diverse and qualified faculty, ensuring that top-tier professionals deliver the College's educational offerings.

Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs

(7/2020 – 9/2021)

- Provided visionary leadership and mentorship to 20 chairs, faculty, and deans, overseeing an operating budget of \$3.5 million and strategically guiding academic departments to align with institutional priorities and workforce demands.
- Oversaw and strategically managed diverse academic programs, including Accounting, Advanced Automation & Robotics Technology, Agriculture, Nursing, and Supply Chain Management, ensuring that offerings were responsive to industry needs and student success.
- Collaborated with chairs and advisors to implement structured or blocked schedules to optimize course delivery to enhance student retention and completion rates.
- Facilitated the development of a Wildly Important Goal through Simplex facilitation, guiding faculty in setting objectives to meet fall-to-spring and fall-to-fall retention targets, reinforcing the campus's commitment to student success.
- Streamlined fall class offerings from 306 to 165 sections while meeting enrollment and budgetary goals, demonstrating a strategic approach to resource allocation and academic efficiency.
- Established a system for faculty referrals to tutoring services, resulting in a 20% increase in tutoring utilization and an 11% improvement in retention rates for gateway courses, enhancing student support and academic success.
- Reduced the adjunct budget by 30% while increasing per-credit pay rates and retaining high-valued part-time faculty, emphasizing financial sustainability and faculty quality.
- Collaborated with Indiana Wesleyan University and Taylor University to secure a Teagle and AVD Foundation Grant, strategically leveraging partnerships to advance educational initiatives.
- Secured \$300,000 in Perkins equipment, enhancing the College's technological capabilities and ensuring that programs remain at the forefront of industry standards.

Dean of the School of Business, Logistics & Supply Chain and School of Public Affairs & Social Services

(3/2018 – 7/2020)

- Provided both transactional and transformational leadership to the College's largest School of Business, Logistics, and Supply Chain (SBLSC), strategically managing 16 diverse programs, including Accounting, Culinary Arts, Entrepreneurship, Fire Science, and Supply Chain Management, to ensure alignment with industry trends and student success.
- Oversaw a comprehensive academic operation, managing ten departmental and program chairs, 24 full-time faculty and staff, 250 adjuncts, and 5,000 degree-seeking students across nine counties with a \$5.6 million budget, demonstrating strategic oversight and operational excellence.
- Led the Indianapolis Campus's preparation for the ACBSP accreditation visit in 2020, showcasing a commitment to maintaining the highest academic standards and continuous improvement in business education.
- Leveraged Perkins funds, one-time dollars, and corporate donations to develop a state-of-the-art \$500,000 supply chain lab on campus, positioning the College as a leader in supply chain education.
- Prepared and coordinated logistics for the Mortuary Science Program's 2018 site visit, successfully securing a 10-year re-accreditation, highlighting a commitment to academic excellence and program sustainability.
- Secured \$1.7 million in Perkins funds annually, enhancing the College's ability to provide cutting-edge resources and support for career and technical education.
- Cultivated partnerships with industry leaders such as Charles Schwab, Children's Museum, Defenders, FedEx, Indianapolis Zoo, and the National Bank of Indianapolis to create robust internships, co-ops, externships, and post-graduation employment opportunities, driving student success and workforce readiness.

Division Departmental Chair/Interim Dean

(2/2017 – 2/2018)

- Provided strategic oversight for the operational needs of a broad range of programs, including Accounting, Cyber-Security, Culinary Arts, Education, Entrepreneurship, Fire Science, and Supply Chain Management, ensuring that each program remained responsive to industry demands and aligned with the College's mission to provide relevant and high-quality education.
- Supervised a comprehensive academic structure involving 14 departmental and program chairs, 34 full-time faculty and staff, 321 adjuncts, and 7,500 degree-seeking students across nine counties and campuses, demonstrating the ability to manage a large and diverse educational enterprise.
- Utilized data-driven metrics to evaluate full-time faculty performance, identifying those with the highest retention, success, and completion rates to uncover best practices and tailor professional development opportunities while enhancing teaching effectiveness and student outcomes.

Director of the Transfer Center

(8/2014 – 2/2017)

- Provided oversight for advising 1,200 students annually transferring from Ivy Tech – Indianapolis Campus to four-year institutions, ensuring seamless transitions and maximizing student success in achieving their academic goals.

- Coordinated Ivy Tech – Indianapolis's involvement in the NSF LiFT Grant Program (formerly EiDEW), enhancing the College's role in advancing STEM education and fostering innovation through national partnerships.
- Organized transfer fairs across seven campuses, collaborating with over 40 colleges and universities to expand transfer opportunities and ensure students access diverse educational pathways.
- Co-chaired the Organizational Committee for IUPUI's Foundation of Excellence Review, contributing to an institutional assessment to improve student success and institutional effectiveness.
- Developed a comprehensive month-long training program for new Transfer Advisors, equipping staff with the knowledge and skills to support student transfers effectively, thereby enhancing overall student satisfaction and success.
- Created a statewide report to track advising sessions of transfer students, providing insights into student needs and informing data-driven decisions to improve advising services and transfer outcomes across the institution.

Assistant Director of the Financial Aid Office/ Default Management

(8/2011-8/2014)

- Collaborated with IUPUI representatives to revise the consortium agreement, enhancing pathways for student success and ensuring smooth transitions between institutions for dual-admission students.
- Worked with IUPUI's Passport Office to streamline the tracking and reporting of dual admission students, improving data accuracy and enhancing student support services to foster seamless academic progression.
- Contributed to key student success workshops, including College Goal Sunday, high school financial aid nights, capstone class presentations, IVYT courses, and new-hire orientation, positioning the College as a leader in community engagement and student readiness.
- Arranged and facilitated regional SAP Express Workshops, addressing student financial aid concerns and promoting financial literacy to ensure students have the resources they need to succeed academically.

EDUCATION

Indiana State University

Ph.D. Program - Higher Education Leadership

Indiana Wesleyan University

Master's in Business Administration

Indiana University and Purdue University at Indianapolis

Kelly School of Business: Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Finance

PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Co-founded the Indiana Transfer Council (ITC)**, establishing a statewide platform to support seamless student transfers across institutions, fostering collaboration among higher education stakeholders.
- **Participated in the American Association of Community Colleges Future Presidents Institute**, positioning yourself among emerging leaders dedicated to shaping the future of community colleges.

- **Served as the campus representative** for Ivy Tech Community College's 2016-2017 Leadership Institute Program, contributing to institutional leadership development and driving campus initiatives forward.
- **Honored by the Center for Leadership Development** with the Minority Achievers Award in the Post-Secondary category, recognizing your contributions to advancing educational opportunities for underrepresented populations.
- **Received the "Indiana's Best and Brightest Award"** in education from Junior Achievement of Central Indiana, highlighting your impact on the educational landscape in the region.
- **Contributed as a Peer Reviewer** for the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP), ensuring that business programs meet high standards of quality and rigor.
- **Served as a Peer Reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission**, playing a critical role in upholding academic standards and accreditation processes for higher education institutions.
- **Recognized by InnoPower as a Black Rising Star**, celebrating your influence and leadership within the community and your commitment to driving positive change.

COMMITTEES, COUNCILS, & BOARDS

- The STEM Connection, Board Member
- IU Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER)
- Indiana Dementia Strategic Plan Advisory Board
- IU – Indianapolis's Degree Completion Office program review committee
- Department of Workforce Development Workforce Action Team
- Indiana Motor Truck Association Justice- Served Committee

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Adjunct Faculty at Ivy Tech in Accounting, Algebra, and Business courses.
- Adjunct Faculty at ITT Technical College (2007) in Microeconomics and Macroeconomics.