

Transit removes education barrier for Ivy Tech students

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When Ivy Tech Community College Northwest and Gary Public Transportation Corporation (GPTC) created a partnership offering \$10 monthly passes for students (a discount of \$20 a month), ridership soared. In fact, student ridership to the Gary campus increased 130 percent. Ridership also increased to the East Chicago campus.

“Partnerships with public transit systems like GPTC are essential in helping us remove at least one barrier for those seeking to further their education and workplace skill sets,” said Ericka McCauley, bi-regional director of enrollment, marketing and communications.

Understanding just how important transit is, Ivy Tech and GPTC are exploring additional ways they can expand the bus route from the Gary campus to the new Crown Point-Merrillville Center. There students will have access to additional degree programs in physical therapy, respiratory care and healthcare support.

This collaboration is part of a larger grant-funded effort with public and private partners to enhance the Broadway Corridor as well as to provide optimal access to the new Indiana University Northwest building. Transit is a key part of the overall vision.

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