



Ivy Tech Students Find Success Before and After Graduation

Ivy Tech Community College Bloomington offers its graduates degrees that lead to well-paying job opportunities, affordable entry into four-year degree programs, and valuable internships with long-term dividends.

Recent graduates Jade Luangphairin, Ben Crandall, and Ana Albertini—all continuing their studies at Indiana University—and soon-to-be graduate Andrew Oxner, who landed a top internship, are just a few of Ivy Tech Bloomington's most recent success stories.

Jade Luangphairin

Jade Luangphairin, a native of Thailand, came to the United States for higher education. At Ivy Tech, she found



everything she was looking for. "I'm so glad I came to Ivy Tech," she says. Luangphairin was interested in biological sciences, particularly biotechnology, and discovered Ivy Tech is among the few colleges offering associate degrees in the field. She also found Bloomington to be a "lovely city" with strong pharmaceutical companies.

"It's a good match—everything about the city," she says. Ivy Tech's personal approach—from an international adviser's handwritten card to small gifts in a welcome package—left a positive impression on her.

Luangphairin, 19, moved here with her mother and sister, started classes in fall 2015, and joined the Campus Activities Board. A May graduate, she says Ivy Tech's dedicated instructors and advisers prepared her well and offered great job advice. She praised Dr. Sengyong Lee, biotechnology department chair, for helping her get an internship this summer at Cook Pharmica. She's eager to start her bachelor's degree in biotechnology at IU in spring or fall of 2018, after doing volunteer work.

Ben Crandall

For his first college experience, Ben Crandall wasn't keen on leaving Bloomington, living on campus, or taking classes in huge lecture halls. Ivy Tech Bloomington, with small classes, a close-knit campus, and inexpensive tuition, fit the bill for him to pursue an associate degree in business administration.

"You can raise your hand and you're not overlooked," says Crandall, 19, a Bloomington High School North graduate. "You're not fighting to find classrooms or walking miles to classes. It's all in one place. Instructors see you in the hallway and recognize you. I needed that."

Crandall, a May graduate, was in a program that allowed his credits to transfer to IU. He'll start there as a junior and apply to the Kelley School of Business where he hopes to earn a bachelor's degree in entrepreneurship. But even before starting at Ivy Tech, Crandall owned his own automotive customization business, which he started in 2015.

"Entrepreneurship is what I enjoy," Crandall says. "My plan is to run my business full time when I go to IU. I don't want to be the guy with a great amount of talent who goes under because he can't run a business."



Ana Albertini

It didn't take long for Ana Albertini, 22, to become active on the Ivy Tech campus. An international student from Brazil, Albertini graduated in May with an associate degree in general studies. During her first semester in fall of 2015, she became a Student Ambassador, giving tours and answering students' and parents' questions, and planned events as a Campus Activities Board member.

"I wanted to be an active student. I really like that Ivy Tech tries to include everybody in events," says Albertini. She moved here in 2014 to live with an aunt and uncle and took high school classes to improve her English.

Albertini found more to appreciate about Ivy Tech, including small classes, affordable tuition, transferrable credits, and accessible instructors. "They're always available to meet if you have questions or if you don't understand subjects," says Albertini.

Now, she's heading to IU to major in apparel merchandising and hopes to become a buyer after earning her bachelor's degree. "Ivy Tech definitely helped me to prepare for and transfer to IU as a junior," she says.

Andrew Oxner

After serving in the United States Air Force for eight years—with tours in Iraq, Kuwait, and Qatar—Andrew Oxner got a job in a factory. He soon learned factory work wasn't for him. Having literally grown up in his parent's computer shop in Elkhart, he already knew a lot about computing, so it seemed natural to pursue a career in the computing field.

Oxner, 30, turned to Ivy Tech, seeking an associate degree in network infrastructure. At first, the Ellettsville resident took classes part time, but left the factory to go to school full time in the fall of 2016. Wanting to get ahead in the job market, he took advantage of Ivy Tech's well-established internship program in computer informatics. In January, Oxner landed an internship as a technical marketing engineer for Platformatics Inc., which provides innovative lighting solutions for businesses.

Though he plans to finish his degree in December, Oxner started full-time work at Platformatics in April, and says he's grateful for the practical work experience Ivy Tech provided. "Ivy Tech has a fantastic internship program that opened up the door for real employment opportunities," he says. •



Photos by Martin Boling



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