?   Ivy Tech Community College's Southern Indiana campus in Sellersburg showed strong enrollment growth again on the first day of classes. Enrollment increased 9.5 percent, to 4,281 on the first day of classes, which was Monday, August 25. In August 2007, first day enrollment was 3,909 students.

This is the third consecutive Fall start with record enrollment for the Ivy Tech Southern Indiana campus, and also the third consecutive Fall start with a record number of new students on campus.

"Ivy Tech is pleased to be able to provide an education to so many students in Southern Indiana and Kentucky," said Dr. Rita Hudson Shourds, Chancellor of Ivy tech Southern Indiana. "We're honored that so many people are choosing Ivy Tech Southern Indiana to improve the quality of their lives and their skills to meet the demands of the 21st century."

Overall, Ivy Tech, which is the community college system for Indiana, has hit a record high for first day of Fall semester enrollment for the entire system. With 86,130 students enrolled statewide for classes on Monday, Ivy Tech's total headcount was up 11.8 percent compared to the first day of classes last Fall. The state's community college saw an increase of more than 9,000 students enroll this Fall semester as compared to last Fall. Each of Ivy Tech's 14 regions across the state experienced growth.

In addition, more students are taking more credit hours as the full-time equivalent (FTE) numbers increased by 12 percent for first day of Fall semester enrollment to a record Fall high of 50,114.

"It's clear that students are responding to Ivy Tech's promise of affordable, quality education that leads to employment in the fields where workers are needed most," said Ivy Tech President Thomas J. Snyder. "We pledge to continue to earn our students' trust by giving them a meaningful college experience, whether they're seeking a new career or planning to transfer their credits to a four-year university."

Ivy Tech's first day Fall enrollment has grown quickly over the last four years, with first day enrollment numbers at 65,300 in 2005 and growing to 86,130 this year, an increase of 20,830 students in just four years. Four-year growth numbers are as follows:

2005-65,300
2006-69,803
2007-77,013
2008-86,130

Ivy Tech Community College is the nation's largest statewide community college system and the state's second largest public post-secondary institution serving more than 115,000 students a year. Ivy Tech remains Indiana's most affordable option to earn a college degree, as students can earn an associate degree from Ivy Tech for less than $6,000. Those degrees result in good-paying jobs and students can transfer their credits to four-year colleges and universities in pursuit of a bachelor's degree, saving half the cost annually.

It serves as the state's engine of workforce development, offering affordable degree programs and training that are aligned with the needs of its community along with courses and programs that transfer to other colleges and universities in Indiana. It is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.