



## Students really do need US!! A new chapter in my Academic Advising Career

By  
**Brad Peters**

I recently started a new chapter in my Advising Career. For the past seven years I have been an Academic Advisor in the Aviation Technology Department at Purdue University. While advising at Purdue I worked with students majoring in Aviation Flight Technology, Aviation Management and Aeronautical Technology (now called Aeronautical Engineering Technology). I got a great start to my Academic Advising Career by working with a receptive student body and also working with wonderful colleagues, both in my office and within the larger University infrastructure.

Personal reasons necessitated a move so as of November 3, 2008, I have been advising first semester students and undecided students at Ivy Tech Community College Northeast in Fort Wayne. This new endeavor has given me the opportunity to see academic advising outside of Aviation Technology and outside of Purdue University. I am learning new aspects of being an academic advisor and that the job itself is even bigger and certainly more complex than I realized.

One thing I have reaffirmed from switching to a new advising position is that students really do need us. I have always known this

but my new advising position has confirmed it. Like my advising days at Purdue, I have students who are with me for a very short time. I know they will be successful even if they never set foot in my office again, even though I always hoped that they would check in with me from time to time.

At Ivy Tech I have a large population of students that are extremely timid about being in college and that really don't have an understanding of what it means to be in college and what it takes to be successful. I have quickly learned that all students need us (advisors), but it is this second population of students that I am learning to focus on because they are the ones who truly need us to teach them to be successful and to understand what it means to be a successful college student.

The diversity I have experienced over the past two months has been an eye opening experience from an advising standpoint. I am working with students who place directly into program level classes and also with students who read and write on a third grade level. This has presented me with new advising experiences that I have not had before. It is a new set of challenges but also a new opportunity to work with a diverse group of students and

## IAAN Mission

The Indiana Academic Advisors Network (IAAN) is a group of professionals from colleges and universities across the state of Indiana. The organization was formed to foster the personal and professional development of its members. The membership of IAAN is comprised of faculty members, administrators, peer advisors and other professionals who are concerned with the advising needs of students.

The goal of the organization is to promote communication among its members. By joining IAAN members will get the opportunity to share ideas, learn about new programs, and meet colleagues with similar professional interests and situations.

IAAN will also provide to its members additional services, such as professional referrals, job placement information and an in-state resource clearinghouse. Because IAAN is a National Academic Advising Network (NACADA) allied organization, members will also be able to obtain links to other professionals, associations, and resources beyond Indiana, extending members' networking and information circle.

a chance to lead them to success. This is giving me and other Ivy Tech advisors the opportunity to truly teach students who desperately need to be successful. I am looking forward to seeing this diverse group of students succeed in the future. This will not be an overnight type of advising process, but with the right advising processes students will benefit from seeing us. I am looking forward to developing and utilizing some of my advising techniques I gained at Purdue and applying them to my current position. I also look forward to learning new techniques from my colleagues here at Ivy Tech Northeast as well as from future IAAN events that will help me advise my current student population and lead them to success and into their future.

This gives me the opportunity to invite you all to the upcoming IAAN conference “**Countdown to the Future of Advising**”. This year’s conference will be a lead in to the NACADA regional at Purdue University West Lafayette.



*Brad Peter is the newly elected president of IAAN.*

## **IAAN Conference to be held at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN**

Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. Because of the travel constraints on many institutions, IAAN decided to hold its yearly conference at the same site as the NACADA Regional, one day prior to the beginning of the NACADA Conference.

In this way, advisors, faculty, and administrative personnel would be able to take advantage of two conferences for far less than the cost of a larger conference.

The date for the IAAN Annual Drive In Conference is Saturday, April 25th, 2009.

Information can be found on the IAAN web page. We hope to see you there and invite you to present some of your own advising techniques that will help advisors and lead them into the future.

The IAAN Conference page is up and available for those who wish to attend. The website is listed below.

[iaan.calumet.purdue.edu/](http://iaan.calumet.purdue.edu/).

NACADA’s Regional  
Conference will be held at

conference is Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009. More information can be found on the IAAN web page <http://>