

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Oct. 21, 2013**

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**Ivy Tech Northeast raises nearly \$60,000 for student scholarships at annual Reason to Taste event**

In its second year, Ivy Tech Community College Northeast's *A Reason to Taste* has raised **nearly \$60,000**, which all goes to the Ivy Tech Foundation, the scholarship arm of the college.

The event took place the evening of Oct. 12 in the Student Life Center on Ivy Tech Northeast's North Campus, 3701 Dean Drive.

Hospitality Administration students who win the chance to travel to France to study cooking for two weeks put on the event. They create the menu, prepare the food, serve, and bus, with the help of an event committee and some Ivy Tech Northeast employees.

"It's an out-of-the-box experience to have culinary students cook the total gourmet dinner for you under the chef's tutelage," committee member Donna Packnett said. "It was phenomenal."

The menu included dishes like beef bourguignon and a dessert trio of pear frangipane tart, a maple pumpkin pots de crème, and a chocolate macaroon.

Visit Ivy Tech Northeast's [flickr page](#) to see photos from the event, which can be used for publication, and check out [two videos](#) on the college's YouTube channel featuring students who traveled to France and helped prepare the event menu. (Three photos are attached, with captions at the bottom of the release.)

Next year's event has been scheduled for Oct. 25, 2014. Those who are interested in sponsorship opportunities and/or serving on the planning committee can contact Mary Jo Toenges at [mtoenges@ivytech.edu](mailto:mtoenges@ivytech.edu) or 260-481-2243.

Other sponsors included reception sponsor Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 166—Fort Wayne and 16 corporate sponsors: Asher Agency; Barnes & Thornburg LLP; BFGoodrich; Brooks Construction Company Inc.; City of Fort Wayne; Do It Best Corp.; Alice and Pete Eshelman; Fort Wayne Metals; The Hagerman Group; Lincoln Financial Group; Lutheran Health Network; MSKTD & Associates, Inc.; Northeast Regional Chamber/Northeast Regional Partnership; Northern Indiana Public Service Company; STAR Financial Bank; and Sweetwater.

Ivy Tech Community College is the state's largest public postsecondary institution and the nation's largest singly accredited statewide community college system. Ivy Tech serves nearly 200,000 students annually and has campuses throughout Indiana. It functions 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 and a member of the North Central Association.

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Attached: PDF of release, photos from event

Captions:

**Student servers:** Ivy Tech Northeast students Michael Harter, Theresa Herczeg, Kelsey Conrad and Christopher Bertholf serve champagne at A Reason to Taste.

**RTBeef:** Students created and prepared a five-course meal for the fundraising dinner. For the entrée, beef bourguignon with a potato tower and vegetables. (Beef bourguignon recipe available upon request.)

**RTPrepLine:** For a Reason to Taste, students, employees and committee members turned the gym in the Student Life Center on North Campus into a banquet hall. Nearby hallways became makeshift food prep stations.