

Ivy Tech Community College

3101. S. Creasy Lane

Lafayette, IN 47905

11/10/2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I wholly recommend Kankakee Valley High School's education profession program for consideration in regards to the CTE "Excellence in Action" award. The KVHS education profession program exemplifies the best attributes of Career Technical education: application of technical & career skills, career exploration opportunities, and a high quality curriculum. Students in the KVHS program complete 20 hours of cadet teaching each semester serving the Kankakee Valley area's pre-K, elementary, and middle schools. Veteran teachers work side by side with the teaching cadets instructing them on current practices in the education profession. Nearly half of the graduates of the KVHS education profession program continue their professional education at 4-year Colleges of Education. I have the privilege of visiting the KVHS program every year as a higher education representative of Ivy Tech Community College. I work in conjunction with the lead teacher of the program, Mrs. Laurie Holcomb, to ensure students are meeting the dual credit college coursework requirements. I have been thoroughly impressed with the quality of the program's curriculum, and the professionalism of the students enrolled in the program.

Sincerely,

Clifford Jack

Education Program Chair

Assistant Professor-Education

Ivy Tech Community College

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# Wheatfield Elementary School

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www.kv.k12.in.us

Mrs. Cathy Vollmer, Principal  
Mrs. Andrea Kelleher, Secretary/Treasurer  
Mr. David Myers, Title 1 Director

To Whom It May Concern:

I am honored to support Kankakee Valley High School's Education Profession Program in receiving the CTE Excellence in Action Award. We have had the privilege of forming a partnership with the cadet program for the last three years. Our cadet teachers come two hours per week which is 20 hours per semester. Our teachers enjoy hosting each cadet and are eager to share their knowledge with them to hopefully be inspired to become a teacher.

We are enthused by these young individuals' professionalism and willingness to work with our students and teachers.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this great program!

Sincerely,



Cathy M. Vollmer

Working Together to Encourage and Empower Students for Success



KVHS Cadet Teachers are: (front) Taylor Tracy Jaiene Quiles-Mercado, Jessica McLean, Taylor Pzynski, Rebecca Sims (back) Payton Ritchie, Karsen Boone, Hailey Farr, Alyssa Allen, Faith Edwards and Madison Roak.

PHOTO PROVIDED

# KVHS students cadet teach to learn and earn

**By Tom Sparks**  
Correspondent

WHEATFIELD – Eleven Kankakee Valley High School students are getting a taste of what their future may hold as they experience teaching and explore the profession to decide if it is, in fact, what they see for themselves as a career.

The students are not only gaining an invaluable experience; they are also receiving dual credit for it. The students receive both high school credit from KVHS and college credit from IVY Tech Community College through the service learning program. This is the third year for the program.

The program is known as Cadet Teaching and is taught by Laurie Holcomb of the FACS department. It places juniors and seniors in classrooms throughout the district two days a week to work with their cooperating teachers and their students. Ivy Tech requires students to Cadet teach for 20 hours per semester. On the other days of the week they learn about the five domains of teaching as set by the Indiana Department of Education: The Teaching Profession, The Learner and the Learning Process, Planning Instruction, The Learning Environment

requirements: no D's or F's on their previous year's report card; a 95% or above attendance rate; and, have no disciplinary actions on their school record. Once accepted into the program, Cadets apply to work with a grade level of their choice. While in the classroom, Cadets observe the classroom teacher, help monitor students, work with students one on one, grade papers, teach lessons, and perform other classroom tasks.

The students are ebullient in their praise for the experience.

"I took Education Professions because I want to be an elementary teacher," said Madison Roak when asked about why she joined the program. "I've always loved working with kids. I would like to gain some insight as to how I would potentially run my classroom in the future. I feel like there's a lot of students that don't enjoy school and I would like to change that for them."

Roak plans to attend Ball State to major in Elementary Education upon graduation from KVHS.

"Taking Education Professions was one of the best decisions I have made in high school," said another Cadet, Jessica McLean. "I have wanted to

# ABATE Toys for Kids

**By Cheri Shelhart**  
editor@kvpost.net

The annual Toys for Kids toy drive has begun with area businesses ready to be drop off points or to help the ABATE members with gifts and gift certificates for them to give to children in both Jasper and Newton County.

The annual ABATE party, which raises money so ABATE members can purchase gift cards for older children will be held on Dec. 10, at the DeMotte American Legion.

The ABATE team gathers new toys for children up to age 18, if living at home. They accept cash noations as well as new toy donations for the children. ABATE, a group of motorcycle enthusiasts, has been collecting toys for the children of the two counties for over almost 20 years, and seeing the need increase as the years have passed. In 1997, Wiers Chevrolet - GMC - Cadillac in DeMotte and Smith's Auto Warehouse in Rensselaer were the first drop off sites for

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**By Nick**  
reporter@to

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has been a great hands on-experience."

This year, there are eleven teachers in the KV district who have accepted the role of Cooperating Teacher. These teachers are Rosemary VanSyoc, Dawn Koontz, Samantha Bushman, Cheryl Bockstahler, Linda Yozman, Michael Sampson, Robin Dietrich, Sheri Sanders, Denise Rockley, Jill Tucker, and Lynette Jurcik.

"Every Cadet has a different cooperating teacher which means they all have different responsibilities around their respective classrooms," said McLean.

"Being a cooperating teacher in the program for the last two years has been enlightening," said KVIS Teacher Robin Dietrich. "With the status of education uncertain, it is wonderful to see the high schoolers present themselves in a professional manner and be willing to interact one on one with students who are working below grade level and challenge those who work above grade level. I am honored to support this program in my 5th grade classroom."

"A cooperating teacher is one who volunteers to open their classroom to the Cadet and serve as a mentor to them," said Holcomb. "The cooperating teacher guides their Cadet as they perform basic teacher tasks and eventually steps aside to let the Cadet lead the class in activities and lessons. Having good cooperating teachers is critical to the success of the program. Without them, Cadets would not be able to experience first-hand and practice all that we learn about in their high school classroom."

ing to help. "They wanted to become a part of this," he said. Businesses don't have to be drop off sites, he said. Just allowing the ABATE members to hang a poster in a business window is a big help. "Even that works to bring awareness," he said.

In the beginning, the group wanted to become a part of the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program, but found that they only distributed the donated toys to children in Lake and Porter Counties and weren't set up to distribute in the more rural counties. With the Marine Corps blessings, ABATE started their own program, "Toys for Kids" so they could distribute the gifts in the two counties their chapter represents.

On Dec. 11, a group of volunteers will prepare the toys for distribution. Parents will be notified of pick up times to pick up the toys and or gift certificates and cards for their children. But before that, the ABATE members celebrate their 24th annual Christmas party to raise money for the children. The party has become popular

from as far away as Lafayette to Pfiel. for a wild meal and band favorite, ns at 6 p.m. and



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Alice Smith, Purdue Ex Educator