

YMCA joint-use facility underway

Ivy Tech expects to benefit from child care offerings

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Access to childcare is the number one reason non-traditional students withdraw from Ivy Tech Community College, according to David Bathe, chancellor for Ivy Tech Community College campuses in Lafayette and Kokomo.

“To have childcare on the campus is instrumental in helping us retain individuals who have challenges with childcare, so that they can succeed, complete and increase their incomes and overcome poverty,” Bathe said.

A new YMCA joint-use facility would offer such childcare, right next to Ivy Tech’s campus. Bathe and the other partners behind the new Lafayette Family YMCA broke ground on Tuesday. Alongside other community leaders and children from the YMCA preschool program, representatives of Franciscan Health, IU Health Arnett, Ivy Tech Community College and Junior Achievement attended the ceremony.

“This project as a whole, with all of the partnerships, has the opportunity to change the economic complexity for so many individuals,” Bathe said.

The joint-use facility will cost \$28 million and span 116,000 square feet across the parking lot from the Ivy Tech Community College Campus on South Creasy Lane.

The project is part of a collaboration called The Intersection Connection and will host additional partners and services besides the Lafayette Family YMCA.

“That’s kind of the style we see here in Tippecanoe County: bring people and groups together so we can achieve more than we could do by ourselves,” Intersection Connection member Jim Gothard said.

The Lafayette Family YMCA will take up 85,000 square feet and include athletic amenities, classrooms and a childcare center funded by North Central Health Services.

Franciscan Health also will maintain a presence, using 20,000 to 25,000 square feet to offer sports medicine, physical therapy, primary care and educational programs.

Junior Achievement will operate youth financial literacy programs in its 6,000 square feet of space. The “BizTown” program would create a life-size town where fourth and fifth graders take the helm of a mock economy and government. The “Finance Park” program will teach eighth and ninth graders about personal finance issues like taxes, financial institutions, income and budgets.

Indiana University Health is funding the aquatic center and will offer health education programs and Ivy Tech internships.

The facility will be located next to the Ivy Tech Community College of Lafayette campus on South Creasy Lane — at the former location of Point East Mobile Home Park.

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DAVID BATHE, chancellor for Ivy Tech Community College campuses in Lafayette and Kokomo



From left, Tom Murtaugh, Tony Roswarski, Terry Wilson and John Dennis stand with children from the YMCA Preschool Program at Tuesday’s groundbreaking for a facility that will include a YMCA among other amenities.

JEREMY ERVIN/JOURNAL & COURIER