Chancellor Charles R. Bantz

According to Georgetown University’s Center on Education and the Workforce report, “Help Wanted: Projections of Jobs and Education Requirements through 2018,” there is a growing mismatch between the jobs that will be created over the next decade and the education and training of workers to fill those jobs. Technological developments are creating industries that favor workers with more and more education because they have the skills to handle more intricate tasks. And employers are looking not for narrow, industry-specific training, but broader advanced education that paves the way for more specialized training once graduates are on the job.

The study also shows that there is a clear relationship between formal education level and annual earnings. High school graduates earn about $26,001 a year, bachelor’s degree holders earn $49,435, and advanced degrees holders earn $71,895. Employers are paying a premium to hire workers with more education and have been for decades. Their study suggests that students today should be trained for occupations rather than specific industries. That means training today is portable from industry to industry and not tied to working one’s way up through a particular organization over a life career.

As Indiana’s key campus for educating Indiana’s graduate/professional talent, we strategically emphasize academic degree programs that fuel economic development and workforce needs. Our schools have been very creative in creating graduate programs that prepare students for stimulating and lucrative careers:

- A master’s degree in event tourism trains students to look at the long-term implications of the business environment and adjust strategic plans to changing conditions.
- A master’s degree in applied anthropology as well as a doctoral program in applied earth sciences are examples of degrees that prepare graduates not necessarily seeking academic careers.
- A new Ph.D. in health communication will provide graduates with the skills and expertise to recommend best strategies for influencing health behavior such as smoking, facilitate physicians disclosing medical errors to patients and improving patient-caregiver communication.

For Vision 2025, what should we do to encourage more students to pursue postbaccalaureate studies? What can we do to better coordinate and promote graduate education opportunities at IUPUI? What graduate programs ought we to have in development to meet future needs?

Comments? Write chanciir@iupui.edu or plan2025@iupui.edu or visit http://strategicplan.iupui.edu/.

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