The IPFW Division of Continuing Studies (DCS) believes “You Never Stop Learning” and its goal is to provide high-quality, lifelong learning opportunities to people and businesses located throughout northeast Indiana, southern Michigan and northwest Ohio. DCS offers a variety of programs designed to address educational needs through community outreach in the areas of personal enrichment, professional development, off-campus and online learning programs, weekend credit courses, and General Studies degree programs. In addition to programs targeted at individual growth, the division hosts the Northeast Indiana Small Business Development Center and offers an Entrepreneurship and Corporate Training program to serve the region’s business community.

“The Division of Continuing Studies is a great resource for matching educational expertise with a broad range of training and development needs,” says Deb Conklin, DCS executive director. “Our goal is to increase access and convenience for those who want to earn a degree, graduate sooner, advance in their career, or simply enjoy learning!”

DCS programs help prepare individuals for their future careers and also help them refine and increase skills in preparation for growth opportunities in the workplace. During the 2012–13 fiscal year, DCS collaborated with 24 career-related professional organizations to develop and enhance new and existing certificate and noncredit courses, resulting in 5,003 enrollees. Employees from 594 area companies and organizations were enrolled in DCS professional development courses last year.
For businesses seeking to further cultivate their biggest asset—their employees—the division’s goal is to provide them with customized training and learning programs. Based on a thorough needs analysis, DCS assists these entities by providing customized training solutions that can be delivered anywhere—onsite, offsite, or on campus. As an example, last year DCS was hired by Parkview Health Systems to assist in the implementation of its new medical records system, which involved recruiting, hiring, and training 38 individuals to serve on the training team, delivering 682 classes to 5,456 Parkview employees.

DCS corporate training also hosts an annual Applied Leadership Series in partnership with the Center for Leadership Development within the Division of Organizational Leadership in the College of Engineering, Technology and Computer Science; the Richard T. Doermer School of Business; and the IPFW Alumni Association. This intensive three-day workshop, which meets March 19-21 this year, is designed to develop leadership skills of managers.

For more information on the IPFW Division of Continuing Studies and its various programs, visit the DCS website.