The IPFW Office of Engagement was launched in January 2006 as a four-way partnership between IPFW, Purdue University, Indiana University and the northeast Indiana business community. The primary mission of the office is to match IPFW, Purdue, and Indiana University expertise and intellectual property to the needs of northeast Indiana and to enhance economic development and improve the quality of life for its citizens. For the past eight years, the office has served as a key outreach liaison of the universities for business, industry, government, and community regional partnerships.

Using the intellectual and physical resources of its university partners, the office serves a key role in promoting positive outcomes in northeast Indiana in three main areas:

- **Economic development** – growth of high-skill and high-wage jobs
- **Workforce development** – ensuring incumbent and emerging workforce have necessary skills
- **Community development** – contribute to “quality of place” measures in northeast Indiana
The Office of Engagement actively seeks collaborations between regional companies, government and community groups, and faculty, staff, and students on any or all three campuses. With the focus clearly on northeast Indiana as an economic region and utilizing the complimentary resources of these three institutions, a comprehensive portfolio of services can be made available to community partners. Engagement focuses on specific areas to facilitate community access to research, technology, technical expertise, employment services, and educational programs. These resources fall into six broad categories:

- Research capabilities
- Technical assistance, faculty expertise, student projects
- Intellectual property
- University programs, seminars, conferences, networking opportunities
- Workforce development, continuing education, corporate training
- Internships, co-ops, student hiring, service learning opportunities

Over the past eight years, Engagement has served over 500 businesses, with a success rate of over 45 percent in finding value-added collaborations. Faculty has been engaged in successful research projects in partnership with regional businesses through funding sources such as the Department of Defense Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer programs (SBIR/STTR).

Between 70 and 120 companies engaged faculty through the Purdue Technical Assistance Program (TAP) during the last five years, working on projects in areas such as information technology, marketing, biology, and engineering. The TAP is available to Indiana companies, so our northeast Indiana businesses are able to access the expertise of Purdue faculty, including those at IPFW, for up to 40 hours of no-cost support each year for qualifying projects. Laboratory facilities on the IPFW campus such as the Argast Family Imaging and Analysis Lab (home to a scanning electron microscope) and the Information Analytics and Visualization Center are also made available to our regional employers on a cost-per-use basis.

Finally, each year faculty members work closely with regional business on academic projects in engineering, computer science, and business, giving students real-world experience while working to solve problems proposed by industry partners.

Businesses that are interested in exploring opportunities with any of the university partners should contact Sean Ryan, director of university engagement, at 260-399-1662 or ryans@ipfw.edu.