

IU Northwest News Release

Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
ALL ZONES**

IU Northwest School of Business offers free tax preparation Families making under \$50K annually are eligible for service

Beginning Saturday, Jan. 28 and continuing on most Friday evenings through April, Northwest Indiana families with less than \$50,000 annual income may take advantage of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program at the Indiana University Northwest School of Business and Economics. This service provides free electronic tax filing of federal and state returns for local families.

Eligible families are invited on a first come, first served basis to get their returns prepared from 9 to 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 28. Thereafter through tax season, services on Fridays are by appointment between 5 and 8 p.m. VITA sessions take place on the IU Northwest campus in Gary in the Dunes Medical/Professional Building, room 1103.

Families are asked to bring all W-2 forms, 1099's, Social Security and government payment notices, any tax rebate amounts received and any other notices of income, mortgage interest, taxes paid, qualified tuition payments, contributions, rents paid, names and addresses of landlords, and any other tax-related information, as well as all family and dependent Social Security cards and birthdates.

There are no charges for this service and refunds are typically received within 10 days.

The tax preparers will work with individuals to maximize refunds thanks to recent changes in the tax laws. Those who are working may be eligible for the Make Work Pay Credit. Students or their parents can get an expanded American Opportunity Education Credit. Some families can benefit from the Lake County Real Estate Tax Credit or the Unified Credit.

To provide this popular service, the IU Northwest School of Business and Economics and the Accounting and Business Student Organization have teamed with Northwest Indiana Community Action and the Internal Revenue Service. Business and accounting students at IU Northwest are trained by faculty members and Internal Revenue Service representatives to prepare the tax returns.

For more than 30 years, students with IU Northwest's AACSB-accredited School of Business receive practical, hands-on experience in tax preparation and customer service, while Northwest Indiana families are able to access free tax-preparation services.

For more information or to make an appointment, contact the IU Northwest School of Business and Economics at (219) 980-6552.

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