FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Leadership Bloomington-Monroe County celebrates 28th class graduation and 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. – Leadership Bloomington-Monroe County (LBMC), a program in partnership between Indiana University Bloomington Continuing Studies and the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, honored this year’s 20 graduates and the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient on Wednesday, April 25 at the Indiana Memorial Union Federal Room.

Lieutenant Colonel Kirk White, who serves as assistant vice president for strategic partnerships at Indiana University, addressed the group on leadership lessons learned during his two overseas deployments to Afghanistan.

LBMC is a seven-month program designed to develop leadership skills and promote community involvement through experiential learning. Participants attend sessions focusing on specific aspects of community leadership, taught by experts from Indiana University and the greater community. In addition, each participant works with a small group of classmates to complete a project that addresses a specific community concern. This year’s projects include a strategic plan to enhance local economic development through the Local First Indiana organization, a set of fundraising activities for the Women and Children IU Health Bloomington Hospital campaign, a community food preservation initiative and the 2012 Bloomington Festival of Words to promote literacy.

The Class of 2012 graduates represent several business, non-profit, education and government entities: Lana Boling, retired teacher; Lois Brown, student and IU employee; Kelly Carnahan, IU Office of the Vice Provost for Research; James M. Devereaux, retired physician; Lori Garraghty, United Way of Monroe County; Thomas Hill; Shapour Khosravipour, Maria Stolze-Epple and Holly Vonderheit, all of IU Health Bloomington Hospital; Nichole Lustre, Technology Service Corporation; Conor McIntyre, South Central Community Action Program; Sally J. G. Meyer; Matthew Minderman, Stone Belt, Inc.; Jenny Olmes-Stevens, Indiana University Department of Physics; Dana Palazzo, Bloomington Economic Development Corporation; Constance Percifield, IU Credit Union; Adam Roberts, BKD, LLP; Jami Scholl, My Edible Eden; Wade Snider, LifeDesigns; Jennifer Syrek, IU Bloomington Continuing Studies.

The graduates join nearly 800 LBMC alumni. “The Class of 2012 was enthusiastic and passionate about their participation in the program. Each project group faced several
challenges, but the participants met those challenges with the leadership skills needed to succeed. Our community will be well served by these leaders and the projects and initiatives they support," said Kyla Cox, LBMC director.

The LBMC Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, Cathi Crabtree, was recognized for her outstanding achievements in professional and community service. An engineer for the United States Special Operations Command at Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane, Crabtree has served in leadership roles in her career and volunteer work. She serves as the Chair of the Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women. Currently, she is an on-scene advocate at Middle Way House Domestic Violence Shelter and Rape Crisis Center providing support to victims and is a past president of the Middle Way House Board of Directors. Crabtree has held various positions within the Hoosier Hills Chapter of Federally Employed Women including serving as president, and is an active member of Crane’s local chapter of Blacks in Government.

The next LBMC class will begin October 12 with an orientation and alumni reception. For more information about the application process, e-mail Kyla Cox at knblanke@indiana.edu, call 855-1182, or visit www.continue.indiana.edu.

IU Bloomington Continuing Studies provides opportunities for adults to engage in lifelong learning. Programs include the General Studies degree, Adult Student Resources, Lifelong Learning courses, Mini University and Leadership Bloomington-Monroe County. All programs draw upon the rich resources of IU Bloomington and are offered on campus and at convenient community locations in Bloomington and the surrounding area. IUBCS is a division of the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education. For more information, visit continue.indiana.edu or call (812) 855-9335.

The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce is a nonprofit membership organization serving as our community’s leading advocate for business. We offer unique leadership opportunities, meaningful volunteer activities, and exclusive business-building programs focused on critical economic, civic, and social priorities. Chamber members support each other and community initiatives, sharing information and resources to help create economic opportunity and community well-being. At the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, we believe that better business leads to a better community.

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