

East Allen University on Promising Practices list

JAMIE DUFFY | The Journal Gazette

East Allen County Schools once again made the state's Promising Practices list, a bicentennial nod to schools that have programs worth highlighting.

So far, the Indiana Department of Education has chosen 128 promising practices, with the goal of hitting 200 by year's end.

EACS' East Allen University was one of 12 named Thursday. EAU's early college program, a partnership with Vincennes University, began in 2012. This spring, EAU graduated 77 students, 63 of whom acquired an associate's degree along with a high school diploma.

EACS Superintendent Kenneth Folks said the program is changing lives.

"Over 70 percent of our students who earned their associate's degrees from Vincennes University are first-generation college graduates," he said. "These students have the opportunity for a better life, and a better career because of their hard work and because of a school system that found a way to meet their individual needs."

EAU principal Doug Hicks said the enrollment is growing.

"Our faculty and staff work diligently to ensure that each student is provided with the individual instruction they need to succeed," Hicks said. "Our enrollment is growing as excitement and energy about our program is communicated with our community. This is truly a team success story, and we look forward to many years of helping students achieve their dreams."

East Noble School Corp. was also cited Tuesday for its professional development courses.

The Promising Practices initiative was created in February by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz to highlight 200 programs that focus on educational best practices, a number that coincides with Indiana's bicentennial celebration this year.

Selected programs are chosen based on a review of the schools' program and input from experts who work directly with the schools, the Indiana Department of Education said.

Six other practices in Allen County previously made the list.

EACS was cited for its expanded resources for homeless students.

Fort Wayne Community Schools was recognized for its interpreter call center, established in 2013, and for a program known as "specialized support for all students," which includes

those at the Allen County Juvenile Center, Crossroad Child & Family Services, Lifeline Youth & Family Services and Park Center Residential Youth.

Southwest Allen County Schools was cited for three programs: The Senior Experience at Homestead High School, The Natural Helpers program at Summit Middle School, and Woodside Middle School's Online Parent Book Study.