

Admitted students weekend a success

By: Kelly Reed

Have you finished registering for classes yet? Because 405 incoming freshman have.

Indiana Wesleyan University explored the idea of springtime new student registration by hosting Admitted Student Weekend March 14-15. Janelle Vernon, IWU's vice president for enrollment management, believes this weekend was a success and plans on continuing it in the future.

On Saturday, March 15, 405 students registered within four hours. Last year, only 511 incoming students registered during four summer registration dates. The largest amount of students registered last summer in a single day was 142, with the lowest amount being 42.

IWU's enrollment management office decided to hold an earlier registration because they noticed they were losing a significant number of students who had committed to attend the university, according to Vernon.

"We wanted to develop a registration process that would allow them to register earlier and improve their experience," Vernon said.

The class selection process was different than it has been in past years. Incoming students were able to register themselves online instead of filling out a paper and having Residential Academic Services input their class choices.

"Registration was very simple and the professors and student advisors made it really easy," incoming freshmen Rachel Manfred said. "It only took 20 minutes and I was glad that I got to choose some extra classes that I had interest in."

Manfred is coming in as a Strategic Communications major from Greentown, Ind. "Getting all my classes has definitely made me feel like I am committed," she said.

Dr. Mark Perry, associate professor of communication, helped admitted communication students register. He said it was beneficial everything was done at the same place at the same time, and that current students taught incoming students the registration process rather than having faculty or staff do it for them.

"It's always a really enjoyable thing to meet the students and their families when they are that excited about school," Perry said. "The whole atmosphere felt very positive."

Vernon said early registration also allows housing to make room assignments earlier. Housing will start the first round of housing assignments June 7, instead beginning in August.

"Every time I come to IWU, I get more excited to be a student here," Manfred said. "I just can't wait to move in and start my college career."