

# Back To School

## Point Park College, Bidwell Training Center announce partnership program

Point Park College and Bidwell Training Center have announced the establishment of The Point Partnership, a unique program that will enable Bidwell graduates to complete bachelor's degrees at Point Park College.

The Point Partnership, which begins in the fall, creates an individualized plan for Bidwell graduates to earn a bachelor's degree at Point Park College. Early planning with Bidwell and Point Park counselors will enable students to make a smooth transition between the institutions. An articulation agreement allows Bidwell credits to transfer to Point Park College. Coordinated preparatory programs and student support activities will be available to Point Partnership Scholars. Both Bidwell and Point Park College are committed to making the degree affordable through a variety of financial aid strategies that include a limited number of scholarships. The idea is to ease or eliminate the financial burden of higher education for Point Partnership Scholars.

The Point Partnership Program is open to Bidwell graduates who are employed in a training-related field and who are interested in working toward their bachelor's degree at Point Park College.

Located on Pittsburgh's North Side, Bidwell Training Center is an accredited postsecondary institution that offers short-term, accelerated programs. These programs are geared toward equipping students with the necessary skills for employment in today's ever-changing marketplace. Bidwell students enjoy increased employment opportunities in the high tech, medical, culinary and scientific fields.

Bidwell Training Center majors include business travel counselor, chemical laboratory technician, culinary arts, information sciences, medical claims processor, medical coder/abstractor, medical secretary, medical transcriptionist, pharmacy technician and plastics processing technician. Point Park College is an independent, fully accredited institution located in downtown Pittsburgh. The mission of the college, which enrolls 2,700, is to prepare students to succeed in their chosen professions through the mastery of both

the traditional liberal arts and career-oriented majors. Offering over 35 majors in seven academic departments, Point Park has developed a variety of day, evening and Saturday class formats to meet the needs of its diverse student population. The Point Partnership is a logical collaboration between the institutions, according to Point Park College President Katherine Henderson. "Workforce development is one of the most important challenges facing the region. Point Park College and Bidwell Training Center have individually been addressing these needs for years and the Point Partnership fits the vision and mission of both institutions."

"The Point Partnership is also a good fit because graduates of both institutions traditionally remain in the region. In fact, more than 70 percent of Point Park's alumni live and work in western Pennsylvania," she said. "We are proud to be partnering with Bidwell in this exciting new program."

According to Bill Strickland, Bidwell Training Center president and CEO, "The partnership between Point Park College and Bidwell Training Center is an indication of the type of collaboration the future holds."

"This allows Bidwell to continue its mission of providing students with career paths and opportunities for advancement which meet the needs of employers. Community-based efforts like Bidwell Training Center partnering with four-year institutions like Point Park College offer the best chance for technology specific, market driven training for both traditional and non-traditional students."

"We are very proud and excited to have a partnership with Point Park College."

Applications for The Point Partnership, which can be obtained from either institution, should be submitted to the Point Park College Office of Part-Time and Accelerated Programs at 412-992-3608 or 800-321-0129 or www.ppc.edu or Bidwell Training Center, Inc. at 412-323-4000 or 800-516-1800 or www.bidwell-training.org.



**PARTNERSHIP**—Bill Strickland, Bidwell Training Center president and CEO, second from right, and Katherine Henderson, Point Park College president, far right, announced the joint partnership program between the two schools. With them are Bidwell culinary students.