



## **IPL gives \$10,000 each year for three years to New Tech High @ Arsenal Tech**

Indianapolis Power & Light Company (IPL) has made another financial commitment to education in central Indiana, this time to impact the lives of the 400 Indianapolis Public Schools' (IPS) students attending New Tech High @ Arsenal Tech.

IPL's commitment includes a gift of \$10,000 each year for the next three years to purchase science and technology equipment to support New Tech High @ Arsenal Tech. In addition, IPL employees will serve as mentors through the Junior Achievement Mentor Program, which supports the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce Common Goal Initiative. IPL will also assist the faculty of New Tech High @ Arsenal Tech as they develop and facilitate a unique inquiry-based project focused on researching the viability of alternative fuel sources to generate electricity in Indiana. Finally, a career awareness module will be offered that requires students to interview IPL employees by e-mail about their specific jobs and to write descriptions.

"Education is critically important to our community and is a strategic area of focus for Indianapolis Power & Light Company," said Greg Fennig, vice president of Supply Chain and Public Affairs for IPL. "This is a great opportunity to connect students at New Tech High with experiences on issues facing not just our community, but our entire nation, while at the same time preparing them to enter the workforce in a dynamic industry. These students will have the unique opportunity to interact directly with a variety of professionals, develop their own solutions and present their findings to their peers and mentors," he added.

New Tech High is a national education model created in 1996 by educators and business leaders to give students the real-world skills required for success in college, career and life. New Tech High students at each of the 35 New Tech Highs throughout the nation build skills in communication, leadership, problem-solving and critical thinking while mastering state educational standards. Each New Tech High classroom combines two subjects in a project-based learning curriculum. Technology serves as the foundation of learning. For example, at New Tech High @ Arsenal Tech each student receives a school-issued computer.

In 2005, IPS, the Center for Excellence of Leadership in Learning (CELL), The Center for Research and P-16 Collaboration of Indiana University, and TechPoint Foundation created a partnership to bring 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills to the classroom, notably to lower-income and at-risk students.

Arsenal Technical High School, located at 1500 E. Michigan St., was selected to become the first New Tech High in central Indiana. According to the Indiana Department of Education, 67 percent of Arsenal Tech students qualified for free lunches in the 2007-2008 school year, making its student population a strong match for the goals underlying the New Tech High initiative.

“IPL’s commitment to the New Tech High program is proving to be a true partnership. We are grateful for the support of Ann Murtlow, President and CEO of IPL, and the entire team at IPL,” said Rip Taggart, executive director of TechPoint Foundation. “Community partnerships are crucial for the success of Indianapolis Public School students. Through its involvement in New Tech High @ Arsenal, IPL joins the TechPoint Foundation and others in the citywide effort to raise graduation rates in Marion County and provide urban youth with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills necessary to compete in today’s information economy.”

### **About TechPoint Foundation**

TechPoint Foundation, a partner of Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF), was founded by local technology entrepreneurs to provide leadership and resources to make 21<sup>st</sup> century learning available to everyone. The foundation supports programs that help at-risk youth develop the skills they need to succeed in the global information economy.

### **About IPL**

Indianapolis Power & Light Company provides retail electric service to approximately 470,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in Indianapolis, Indiana, and other central Indiana communities. IPL is a subsidiary of AES Corporation, which operates power generation, distribution and retail supply businesses in 28 countries.

