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Ivy Tech expanding in Franklin

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Ivy Tech Community College announced today it will expand its Franklin campus due to a rise in enrollment.

With more than 1,200 students, the college plans to add 6,000 square feet to its 12,000-square-foot campus at 2205 McClain Drive, in the Johnson County city.

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The new space will provide for a computer lab, three classrooms, five faculty offices, a conference room and expanded student commons, according to a news release from the college.

Ivy Tech began offering classes in Franklin in 2004 at Franklin Community High School. The next year, the college and Johnson Memorial Hospital forged a partnership that led to a suite of classrooms on the hospital's third floor. Ivy Tech outgrew that space, leading to the campus on McClain Drive.

Ivy Tech spokeswoman Kelly Lucas said the Franklin site is one of the largest satellite campuses in the college's system, with the Carmel facility in Hamilton County at about the same enrollment.

More than 100 classes are offered at the Franklin campus.

"Completion of degrees will be our next step," Scott Neal, Franklin site director, said in the release. "The majority of classes leading to a degree can be taken at the Franklin campus, but students will still need to take a few classes via distance education or at our Columbus campus to complete their degree requirements."

A \$100,000 donation from Columbus Automotive and a \$175,000 gift from the Franklin Redevelopment Commission will help fund the expansion. As part of a promotion, the college is offering one free class to Franklin residents to be used in the next three semesters.
