Kajeet Success Story:

Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana

IVY TECH: A HUB FOR NEXT-GENERATION LEARNING

Ivy Tech Community College is the largest singly-accredited community college in the country, serving 100,000 students across the state of Indiana. With its 19 campuses, Ivy Tech is committed to supporting students along their unique educational journeys.

"We are committed to making sure all Hoosiers have the opportunity to take advantage of our educational programs and certifications by helping to eliminate basic life barriers they may encounter — from technology issues to funding issues to food insecurity — so they can move forward towards their future goals," shares Valerie L. Holmes, Assistant Vice President for Student Success.

IVY TECH
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Digital Divide in Indiana & COVID-19

The digital divide affects many Ivy Tech students. As a rural state, technology infrastructure challenges leave about 60% of households across the state of Indiana unsatisfied with their home Internet service (*Purdue University*, 2021).

When the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the closure of Ivy Tech's campuses, they immediately responded by installing WiFi boosters on the outside of buildings for students to access. While this offered some relief, many students needed an increased level of support.
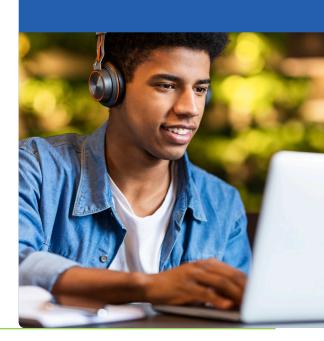
Onboarding with Kajeet

When the Ivy Tech team connected with Kajeet, it became clear that the SmartSpot® solution would meet the connectivity needs of their students.

Kajeet SmartSpot® devices are portable WiFi hotspots, tailor-made for education and equipped with the Sentinel® platform, a powerful device and data management tool for administrators.

Ivy Tech initiated a 12-month pilot program, during which 200 SmartSpot devices were shipped directly to campus leads across Indiana. The devices were already kitted, provisioned, and ready to distribute based on self-identified student need. Over the pilot period, these campus leads closely monitored the program through the Sentinel platform to track student retention, data consumption, learning hours logged, and other metrics important to Ivy Tech.

"Our goal was threefold: we wanted to make sure students understood what was going on in the state of the world, that they were able to continue their schoolwork, and that we could instill in our students a sense of connection and belonging," explains Holmes.

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Proven Impact

The College distributed all 200 SmartSpot devices to students and some staff members who face home Internet challenges.

"The fact that we distributed all devices demonstrates the need for WiFi connectivity among our educational community," shares Holmes.

Given this success, the Ivy Tech team requested an additional 200 SmartSpot devices to expand their impact across the student body.

Currently, Ivy Tech offers a SmartSpot checkout program, allowing students in need of on-the-go WiFi connectivity to borrow a device for the duration of the semester. At the end of that period, students may either return the SmartSpot device or check it back out for the following semester according to their needs.

Looking Ahead

While connectivity solutions can "stand in the gap" for students affected by the digital divide, long-term action must be taken to ensure that the next generation of students is equitably connected to the Internet.

"We hope to leverage Ivy Tech's connections to help Indiana towns develop their technology infrastructure in a way that would be directly impactful — and sustainable — for all of their community members," says Holmes.

Contact an Education Specialist today at Kajeet.com or call 866.4Kajeet to schedule a free demo.

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About Kajeet

Kajeet provides optimized IoT connectivity, software and hardware solutions that deliver safe, reliable, and controlled internet connectivity to nearly 3,000 businesses, schools and districts, state and local governments, and IoT solution providers. Kajeet is the only managed IoT connectivity services provider in the industry to offer a scalable IoT management platform, Sentinel®, that includes complete visibility into real-time data usage, policy control management, custom content filters for added security and multi-network flexibility. Whether to enable digital access that ensures student success, empower companies to connect and control devices in the field, or offer support and a platform to launch a complex mobile solution, Kajeet is trusted by many to make powerful and flexible wireless solutions easy. Kajeet is available for hybrid and multi-network access across all major North American wireless networks, globally in 168 other countries, and on multiple licensed and unlicensed networks. Kajeet holds 39 U.S. patents in mobile technologies. To learn more, visit kajeet.com and follow us on Twitter at @Kajeet.

Acknowledgments

Kajeet, Inc

7901 Jones Branch Drive Suite 350
McLean, VA 22102
240.482.3500
www.kajeet.com
sales@kajeet.com