CHAPTER SEVEN

Part III: Curriculum Development

This was a period of curriculum development and diversification, but it the school also continued to serve its traditional student population. Still offering an education at relatively low cost, but now higher degrees, many young women in the western Pennsylvania area were able to attend ISTC when they would not have been able to go elsewhere. Married women were increasingly among its graduates. The Alumni Bulletin often featured women who to graduate from ISTC in spite of having family responsibilities.

Graduate Degrees

In 1957, ISTC was approved to offer graduate work in Elementary Education. This was quickly followed by approval to offer graduate degrees in Secondary, Business, Home Economics, and Music Education.

Unlike other colleges that limited female student’s access to its graduate programs, the majority of the first master’s degrees awarded were to female
students. The school continued its academic and curricular development, and by 1959 they were given permission to drop the word Teacher from their name and become Indiana State College.

In 1965, Pratt applied for university status stressing the affordability and access of the education offered by ISC:

“many young boys and girls, who come from families of a lower income group, are unable to take advantage of their educational talents because they are not permitted to go on to schools of higher learning. In many cases, the parents’ incomes are less than it costs to send a boy or girl to one of our universities.”

In December of 1965 the status of the school was officially changed from that of state college to university.