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## YOUNG ENGINEERS ARRIVE AT ROSE



Upper classmen help a freshman move his belongings into the new residence hall on the campus of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology on Friday.

## New residence hall ready as freshmen show up for 2025-26 at RHIT

By Sue Loughlin TRIBUNE-STAR

Ainsley Coffey's dad graduated from Purdue University, while her mom got a degree from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

On Friday, Coffey, who is from Mesa, Arizona, followed in mom's footsteps and moved into the brand new freshman residence hall at Rose-Hulman. She joined about 500 other new freshmen launching their college careers.

"My house is a split household," said the mechanical engineering major while moving into the room she shares with Carsan Miley of Terre Haute.

"Rose has been my top choice. I love the small, homey vibe of the campus," Coffey said. "Purdue was a little big for me."

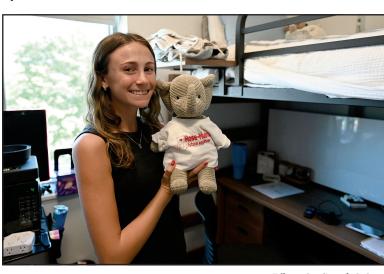
She also is impressed by the success rates of Rose-Hulman graduates in career placement. She's often visited campus with her mom, who returns for Homecoming.

In fact, her mom saved a Rose-Hulman outfit Ainsley wore as a baby, and they put the outfit on a stuffed elephant; Rose Hulman's mascot is Rosie the elephant.

Rose Hulman President Rob Coons stood outside the residence hall welcoming the new students and families and assisting with move in.

"There are two really high points to a president's year on a campus like this," he said. One is commencement, and the other is freshman move-in day.

The incoming students "are



Tribune-Star/Joseph C. Garza

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology freshman Ainsley Coffey of Mesa, Arizona, displays the baby outfit she wore as an infant during her move-in Friday in the school's new residence hall.

enthusiastic and excited," Coons said, while proud parents are watching sons and daughters start a new chapter in their lives.

An opening ceremony will take place Saturday in the Sports and Recreation Center, and then Coons and other campus officials will lead students as they march up the hill. In four years, those students will be part of a procession down the hill when they graduate.

As far as enrollment, the freshman class is smaller this year, with just over 500 students, Coons said. Last year it was right at 600.

He attributed it to "everything happening in the world that's impacting students attending college," along with Rose-Hulman

graduating its largest class ever last

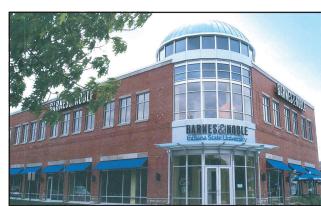
The incoming class remains "at or above the academic quality of any class we've ever admitted," he

The median high school GPA is 4.05; while the scale is 4.0, many Rose students take weighted classes in high school, which can raise their

The freshman class is also "a very diverse class," Coons said, with about 34% from under-represented populations, "which we're happy about."

The incoming freshman class represents 40 states and 19 countries.

Turn to ROSE, A4



The Indiana State University Barnes & Noble bookstore and ISU Foundation offices share a building at Fifth and Cherry streets in

## ISU bookstore might be heading back onto main campus

ISU Foundation, however, is locked into its lease until 2031

By Sue Loughlin TRIBUNE-STAR

Plans are in the works for the Indiana State University bookstore - currently operated by Barnes and Noble - to move back to a central location on the main campus sometime during the 2026-27 academic year.

In addition, long-term goals for the ISU Foundation located in the same building as the bookstore - are also to move back on campus after the current lease expires in 2031.

The building that houses both entities – located on the south side of Cherry Street between Fourth and Fifth streets - is owned by a private investor out of Arizona. The bookstore and foundation have separate leases with the owner.

Turn to ISU, A4

## Most heartbreaking Katrina memory? 'All of it,' native Hautean says

As Debbie Weaver drove across the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway into New Orleans for the first time after Hurricane Katrina, the sights became surreal.



you came over that bridge into New Orleans, it was like the reverse of the Wizard of Oz – going from color to black-and-

"When

white," Weaver said Friday by phone from her home just outside of the historic Louisi-

ana city. "It was very tragic," she added.

The Terre Haute native moved to New Orleans in 1978 after graduating from Indiana State University with a bachelor's degree in fine arts, joining a group of Indiana friends there. After trying the uphill battle of earning a



Submitted photo

Terre Haute native Debbie Weaver works in the art studio of her home in Franklinton, Louisiana, a suburb of New Orleans. She was serving in the **New Orleans Mounted Police** Unit on Aug. 29, 2005, when Hurricane Katrina began its devastation of "The Big Easy."

living as an artist, she took a job as a law firm receptionist for three years. Then she landed a job with the New Orleans Police Department Mounted Unit and stayed at it for 32 years.

Turn to **BENNETT**, A4

### Weather





**A8 MONDAY** 



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