

Modernizing Course Materials at Indian Hills Community College

Impact by the Numbers

\$233K

in student savings

95%+

participation each term

54%

of courses now use IHCC Bookshelf

10x

growth in sections since Fall 2023

3,800+

students reached in Fall 2025

900%

year-over-year growth in the first full year

The Vision: Indian Hills Community College set out to eliminate the delays and barriers that too often prevent students from starting strong. The goal was simple but ambitious: **every student ready on day one.**

Financial aid timing, access code confusion, and complex workflows created uneven starts across classes. Mary Kay Sebolt, Textbook Manager, IHCC, saw these challenges firsthand and envisioned a model that removed barriers while delivering reliable day-one access.

IHCC partnered with VitalSource to build **IHCC Bookshelf**, the college's Course Access program. Course Access, also known as Inclusive Access, is a course-by-course model that allows instructors to adopt the program for individual courses as readiness and interest grow. Students in participating courses receive required digital materials directly in the learning management system (LMS), Blackboard, and start each course prepared.

The Journey: The IHCC Bookshelf Course Access program launched in Fall 2023 with eight courses, most of which utilized courseware. As the store transitioned to a smaller, merchandise-focused space, the launch aligned naturally with goals to reduce physical inventory, simplify operations, and deliver a more seamless course materials experience for students.

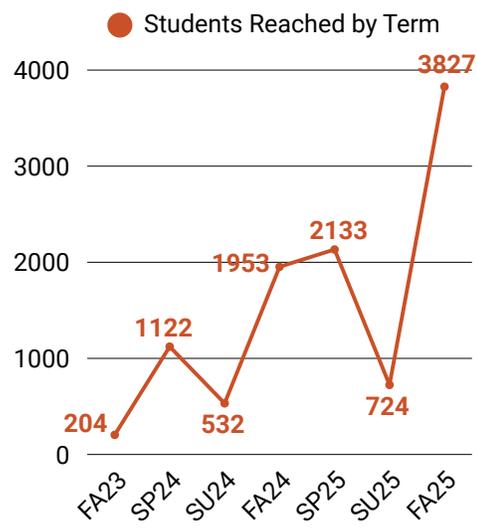
Mary Kay and her team partnered closely with VitalSource, publishers, and early instructor champions to build campus-wide awareness and trust. As adoption grew, instructors quickly recognized the value of delivering materials through the LMS. "Once instructors saw how much students saved with digital materials," Mary Kay noted, "they were on board."



"Students in non-participating courses started asking why their materials weren't imported into Blackboard like their other classes. That told us we were on the right path."

— Mary Kay Sebolt, Textbook Manager, IHCC

Embedded directly in Blackboard, IHCC Bookshelf eliminates access code confusion. “Before IHCC Bookshelf and VitalSource, we struggled with access codes and students not understanding the connection process,” said Heidi Munsell, Science Program Director, IHCC. “Now the connection is two clicks and a login.” Instructors can also launch students directly into publisher platforms, creating smoother lectures and lab experiences.



The Outcome: IHCC Bookshelf delivers a consistent, affordable day-one experience. Students expect to find their materials in Blackboard, and instructors report fewer early-term delays. The program has also simplified store operations by eliminating access codes and reducing physical inventory.



“I absolutely love IHCC Bookshelf! It keeps all my course materials organized and makes studying so much more convenient. Having everything in one place saves me time and keeps me on track.”
 — Student

What’s Next: IHCC plans to build on the strong foundation created through IHCC Bookshelf by continuing to advance efforts that remove barriers and support readiness, with a focus on:

- Expanded instructor training
- Strengthened partnerships with publishers
- Ongoing campus outreach
- Growth in dual enrollment programs



“My goal is to keep educating and expanding the conversation, so more students are set up for success before they even get to college.”
 — Mary Kay Sebolt, Textbook Manager, IHCC



VitalSource + Indian Hills Community College
 Removing barriers so every student starts ready to learn.