



Indiana State University

More. From day one.

**Back to School Celebration
Warrick County School Corporation
August 9, 2010**



Hello and Good Morning

- ❖ It is a pleasure to be in Warrick County and to be part of your back-to-school kickoff.
- ❖ There has been a strong connection between Indiana State and K-12 schools since our founding as the Indiana State Normal School in 1865 to educate the state's teachers.
- ❖ Educating teachers, counselors, principals and superintendents is still a core element of our University.



Connections to Warrick County

- ❖ More than 700 ISU alumni live in Warrick County including an estimated 40 who work within your school corporation. In the Evansville region, there are more than 6,000 Indiana State alumni.
- ❖ In addition, there are currently 50 students from Warrick County attending Indiana State.
- ❖ I hope that many of your current students and future employees will be Indiana State University alums.



ISU's Strategic Plan-- Our Pathway to Success

- ❖ Entering second year of five-year plan.
- ❖ Top goal is to increase enrollment and student success.
- ❖ Expand our commitment to Community Engagement and Experiential Education
- ❖ Execute our Campus Master Plan to improve facilities for academics, athletics and student housing.



Common goal: Student Success

ISU's most important goal is one we share with you here in Warrick County.

K-12 and Higher Education are expected to do more than at any point in our history. The federal and state governments are calling upon us to:

- ❖ Improve learner outcomes.
- ❖ Increase high school and college graduation rates.
- ❖ Do it all with less money.



Specific goals for K-12, higher ed

Federal goal:

- Increase the proportion of young adults who have earned an associate degree or higher to 55% (currently 40%) by 2025.

State goals:

- Increase the number of Hoosiers with bachelor's degrees by 10,000 per year through 2025.
- Increase statewide high school graduation rate to 90%



Accountability and making a difference

This increased accountability is coming at a time of great economic challenges. Despite the budget issues we face in K-12 and higher education, we are blessed with a tremendous resource that will help us meet these challenges – **YOU**.

“We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.”

-- Marian Wright Edelman



What factors impact student success?

- ❖ Desire for success and the persistence needed to achieve it.
- ❖ Engagement with peers, the school and faculty and staff.
- ❖ Academic preparation.



Everyone's job

Whatever your position may be within this school corporation, you have a role in this effort. You impact student success.

- ❖ The **custodians and maintenance staff** members are essential to providing a clean and comfortable environment for learning.
- ❖ The **food service staff** provides much-needed nutrition that contributes mightily to the students' ability to succeed.



Everyone's job

- ❖ The **counselors** aid students coping with a variety of life situations and provide guidance.
- ❖ The **transportation staff** ensures that students arrive at school and at home safely.
- ❖ The **library and media center** employees provide access to resources and new ways of learning.
- ❖ The **administration** provides leadership, goal-setting and evaluation of progress.



The importance of teachers

And lastly, I would like to recognize and commend all of you who have dedicated your lives to teaching. You will likely never realize the full impact of your work.

As **Helen Caldicott** said,

“Teachers, I believe, are the most responsible and important members of society because their professional efforts affect the fate of the earth.”



Closing

So now that I have put the weight of the world on your shoulders, I would like to wish all of you the best for a most productive and successful year.

Your work is making a difference in the lives of your students, in your community, in our state, in our nation and in our world. Together we will achieve our goals

Thank you for everything that you do!

Oh, and, please send us your graduates! GO TREES!





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