

November 20, 2009

Dear colleagues,

During the past few weeks, I have been traveling across Indiana meeting with alumni, prospective students, educators, legislators and members of the media as part of our March On! campaign. There continues to be a great deal of interest in and support for the work that all of you do to serve our students and the State of Indiana. Most recently, we were in Fort Wayne, Elkhart and South Bend after having ventured to Jasper and Evansville earlier in the month. After Thanksgiving, a trip to northwest Indiana is planned. It is great to hear from our alumni about the impact our university has had on their lives.

Concerns about the state's economy are present throughout the state. Revenues continue to fall below expectations, and the Governor has recently asked the state agencies to once again trim their budgets. There has not been any action regarding higher education to date, but we will need to continue to monitor the situation.

A common theme I hear as I meet with alumni is about the caring attitude they experienced from faculty and staff while at Indiana State. That attitude continues to blossom as our efforts to improve student success and serve our community grow.

As we gather with our families and friends next week to give thanks for all that we have, I encourage you to help others in our community by making a gift of whatever size to the campus campaign for the United Way. Anyone who makes a donation or a pledge by December 1 will be eligible for a drawing of special ISU prizes donated by offices across campus. Those donating gifts include the Scott College of Business, the Bayh College of Education, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Nursing, Health and Human Services, the College of Technology, Athletics, Business Affairs and Finance, the ISU Recycle Center, the ISU Bookstore, the ISU Foundation, the Department of Social Work, Communications and Marketing, Public Safety and the Office of the President and Provost. A list of the prizes is available at: www.indstate.edu/president/unitedwaydrawing.pdf. Pledge cards can be downloaded at: www.indstate.edu/unitedway.

I would also like to thank those who have sponsored a member of the Indiana National Guard or reserves serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. The University will be sending specially designed t-shirts and other items to the troops to make their holidays a bit brighter. If you haven't had a chance to participate, you can contribute on Saturday (Nov. 21) at Honey Creek Mall from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in front of J.C. Penney's and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday (Nov. 23) in the HMSU Commons. A special thanks to Stephanie Squires, a graduate assistant in the Center for Public Service and Community Engagement, for organizing this effort and the ISU Women's Soccer Team and the Student Veterans Association for helping with the collections.

Other items I would like to share:

- The first issue of the Journal of Community Engagement and Higher Education, funded as part of the “Fulfilling the Promise” grant from the Lilly Endowment is now available at: <http://discovery.indstate.edu/ojs/index.php/joce>. Published by the Center for Public Service and Community Engagement, the on-line, refereed journal explores community engagement and community-based learning perspective, research and practice. Editors of the journal are Nancy Rogers, Jared Frink, Ed Kinley and Kiaya Powell.
- Congratulations to Indiana State men’s cross country coach John McNichols for receiving the 2009 Great Lakes Region Coach of the Year by the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. This is a major accomplishment as the Great Lakes region is dominated by Big 10 and Mid-American conference teams and is extremely competitive. Coach McNichols led his team to another Missouri Valley Conference championship this year, the sixth time ISU has won the title during his 27-year tenure as head coach. John was also named MVC Coach of the Year for the sixth time. The men’s cross country team finished fourth in the Great Lakes Region, their highest finish ever.
- Three more Indiana State University students – Rodney Dedequax, Regina Engle and Abby Koester -- have received the prestigious Next Generation Nonprofit Leaders Scholarship from American Humanics. The national program honors approximately 200 students each year and provides a scholarship of \$4,500 to help the students complete their American Humanics certification requirements including a minimum 300-hour nonprofit internship. NextGen leaders also have access to mentoring from a network of nonprofit leaders who serve as Career Coaches.
- Dr. Frederica Kramer, professor and former chair of Family and Consumer Sciences, has been awarded the 2009 Outstanding Career and Technical Educator of the Year Award from the Indiana Association of Career and Technical Education for her contributions to the Indiana ACTE chapter and to the career and technical programs of Indiana. Congratulations to Freddie on this latest honor in a long and distinguished career.
- Accolades also go to the Communications and Marketing staff who garnered three awards in the Pride of CASE V Awards program sponsored by the Great Lakes District of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. Ted Wilson, Kara Berchem and Mark Edwards received a silver award in the Excellence in Print Advertising category; Mark Edwards, Tracy Ford, Bob Bruce and Paula Meyer won a bronze medal in the Best Video PSA or Commercial Spot category for the “Real Investment at Indiana State” television commercial; and Kara Berchem earned a bronze in the Photography, Campus Environment category for her snowscape photo. The awards will be presented at the CASE V District Conference in Chicago next month.

- As I mentioned in my fall address, I would like to encourage everyone to wear ISU blue and ISU branded clothing items on Fridays. In designating Fridays as “business casual” days, the cabinet has approved guidelines regarding appropriate attire for staff on these days. In addition, eight days have been designated as special spirit days when jeans can be worn by office staff. The guidelines are available at www.indstate.edu/president/guidelines.pdf. The responsibilities or timing of events in certain offices may require different standards regarding appropriate attire, and these will be left to the supervisor’s discretion.
- During the past two years, the University, in conjunction with Mercer Consulting, has been engaged in a comprehensive review of the current staff compensation and classification structure to develop an equitable, consistent, and competitive classification and compensation system. Representatives from Mercer Consulting are scheduled to be on campus December 8th and 9th to present their results and the implementation plan for the new structure. Four sessions, open to all staff, will be conducted. The one-hour sessions are Tuesday, December 8th at 4 p.m. in Dede I and Wednesday, December 9th at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in University Hall Theater. I encourage all staff members to attend one of these important informational sessions.

Cheri and I would like to wish all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley
President