

September 11, 2009

Dear colleagues,

The first few weeks of the semester have gone very well, and I have enjoyed seeing many of you at our regular opening events as well as the special celebrations we have had related to the rededication of University Hall.

Adding to the excitement is the news that Indiana State's enrollment grew by about 1 percent this fall with increases in virtually every category of students. I was especially pleased to see the growth in transfer students.

Many individuals and offices throughout campus helped contribute to this increase in enrollment. Faculty and staff volunteered in a variety of ways throughout the year. Alumni were involved in hosting recruitment activities. The Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications Division headed by Vice President John Beacon led the overall effort. Jason Winkle, associate dean of ISU's College of Nursing, Health and Human Services, also assisted by stepping in to run our corrections education program on a temporary basis and by leading the Project Success pilot program designed to help students transition to university life. Everyone involved should be congratulated on reversing the enrollment trend.

As we look forward, enrollment continues to be our number one priority. A major part of our strategic plan will focus on issues related to improving the recruitment AND retention of students. There is more that can be done to improve our students' opportunities for success in meeting their educational goals.

A draft of the strategic plan will be made available to the entire campus within the next week. I hope that you will take the time to review it and provide feedback that will help shape the final plan which will be officially rolled out in conjunction with our Leadership Summit the Friday of Homecoming weekend. The important thing to keep in mind is that the goals of the plan and the way we measure progress toward those goals should be the primary focus. The various initiatives designed to advance the institution toward reaching our goals may evolve, disappear or be replaced with other tactics as we determine the most effective ways to move forward.

The Strategic Plan will also be the focus of my annual fall address which has been scheduled for 3 p.m. Wednesday, October 14, in Tilson Music Hall. A campus-wide reception will follow the presentation. The land use plan is also in its final stages of development and will also be a part of the fall address and the presentation during the Leadership Summit.

Other updates I would like to share:

Council on Diversity report

Dr. Carmen Tillery and Dr. Josh Powers, co-chairs of the Indiana State University Council on Diversity, presented findings from the group's first year to the Board of Trustees this morning. The Council on Diversity was established last fall to assist with our diversity efforts and to meet the statutory requirement for Indiana's public universities to have a diversity committee. This has been a very active first year for the Council, and I appreciate the leadership of Josh and Carmen and the hard work of the Council members. With the addition of Dr. Mary Ferguson as our new university diversity officer, I am looking forward to seeing the progress that we will make this year with help of the Council, the Diversity Office and the Affirmative Action area. A copy of the group's report is available at the Council on Diversity website at:

www.indstate.edu/diversitycouncil.

Marion Jackson to be honored

Professor Emeritus Marion Jackson is among an elite group of Hoosiers who will be in the first class of inductees into the Indiana Conservation Hall of Fame. A professor emeritus of ecology at ISU, Dr. Jackson is a distinguished author, naturalist and conservationist. His book, *The Natural Heritage of Indiana*, was published in its second edition last year and was the basis for a four-part video produced by WFYI in Indianapolis. The series aired on public broadcasting stations throughout the state. The honorees include well-known historical figures such as Eli Lilly, Gene Stratton-Porter, President Benjamin Harrison and Richard Lieber as well as contemporary leaders such as Professor Jackson and others who have worked to conserve Indiana's natural treasures and historic places. The inductees will be honored during a September 25 banquet at The Garrison at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis. Indiana State is proud to have one of our own receive this prestigious honor.

Graduate program receives re-accreditation

I am pleased to note that the graduate education program in speech-language pathology has been re-accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation for a period of eight years. Congratulations to the faculty and staff in the program and to College of Education Dean Brad Balch for this important achievement.

Statesman to celebrate 80th anniversary

Next weekend, the Indiana Statesman will celebrate an important milestone – the 80th anniversary of ISU's campus newspaper. Current students, faculty, staff and friends of the Statesman will gather for two days of activities beginning September 18 and concluding the following night with a reception and banquet. A prime example of providing excellent

experiential learning opportunities for our students, the Statesman plays an important role in campus communications. I look forward to celebrating this proud history.

Constitution Day

Next week, Indiana State will be celebrating Constitution Day with a series of events. Most notably, we are honored to have the Chief Justice of the Indiana Supreme Court, the honorable Randall Shepard, with us on Tuesday, September 15. Justice Shepard will be speaking on “The U.S. Constitution as a Great American Export” at 2 p.m. in the Cunningham Memorial Library Special Events area. I hope that you will join us for his presentation and encourage your colleagues and students to attend as well. Other events planned during the week include a ceremonial signing of copies of the Constitution in celebration of the 222nd anniversary of the original signing, a film screening and a public seminar series. Thanks to everyone who is helping the university recognize this important part of our country’s history.

Professors join editorial board

Dr. Susan Moncada, professor of accounting, and Dr. William Swihla, assistant professor of accounting have been invited to join the business editorial board of the Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT). MERLOT is supported by 24 systems and institutions of higher education and the National Science Foundation and is endorsed by the Educational Learning Initiative of EDUCAUSE. Dr. Moncada was selected for the board as a result of her contributions as an associate editor last year. Dr. Swihla’s selection was based on his contributions as a peer reviewer. Congratulations to both Dr. Moncada and Dr. Swihla.

Retiree Health Coverage

Last year, a committee of active and retired employees was formed to review initiatives to keep the post-65 retiree medical plan affordable without reducing benefits or services. As a result of that committee’s work, the university has decided to transition to a fully insured plan for Medicare-eligible retirees who fall under the university’s retiree health coverage. By transitioning to a fully insured plan, our retirees will become part of a larger insured group, helping to lower the overall cost. Other benefits of the plan include the elimination of network restrictions since the plan is approved by all doctors and hospital who accept Medicare payments and access to coverage when traveling outside the United States. The plan will also be available to retirees 65 and over who do not meet requirements for subsidized insurance on a full pay basis.

Information sessions for those interested will be conducted on September 21 at 1 and 3:30 p.m. and September 22 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in HMSU Dede II. Any questions regarding the new plan should be directed to Staff Benefits.

I would like to thank the committee members and our staff in the Division of Business Affairs for helping the university maintain this commitment to our retirees.

I would also like to thank again all those involved in the remodeling of University Hall and congratulate the College of Education faculty and staff. The building is wonderful. I expect it will be helping us educate students for the next 100 years.

Lastly, if you happen to be in town this weekend there is also a lot to do including a home football game Saturday afternoon and a volleyball tournament all weekend. I would encourage you to attend the Blues at the Crossroads Festival tonight and tomorrow in downtown Terre Haute. Our own Jill Shutt, research associate in the ISU Foundation, will kick off the array of performers beginning at 7:15 p.m. tonight. More information is available at: <http://bluesatthecrossroads.com/index.php>.

Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley
President