

October 27, 2017

Dear colleagues,

Cheri and I were overwhelmed by the outpouring of well wishes during the Homecoming festivities and were honored to serve as the grand marshals of the parade and honorary co-captains of the game. Homecoming has always been my favorite week of the year and nobody does it better than Indiana State. Thank you to everyone for making this year so special.

I also enjoyed being a part of the annual Distinguished Alumni Awards reception recognizing our very own **John Beacon** along with **Winna Diane Cargile, Bernie Carney, Eva Kor,** and the late **Elder Diggs**. Congratulations to all of the recipients!

Cheri and I were particularly grateful for the more than 600 people who attended the Gala on Friday night and, along with our sponsors, helped raise more than \$240,000 for the State Works scholarship program. One of our State Works scholars, Nuri Rodriguez, did an excellent job of representing the scholars during the program. We were deeply moved by all of the presentations and sentiments expressed that night.

As I said in my comments that evening, I would like to thank everyone for making our time at Indiana State productive and enjoyable. Everything that has been accomplished in the last nine years has been a team effort. Never before in my career have I had a group of colleagues who have worked so hard and cared so much. You believe in our mission and know that the vision is within our grasp. While the job can never be completed, because there are always new students and new challenges, we know that we control our destiny. I am very proud of what we have accomplished by working together as a campus and a community.

A personal highlight of the Gala for Cheri and me was the unveiling of a portrait of the two of us which was commissioned by the Board of Trustees. Local artist Bill Wolfe painted the portrait and did a masterful job. Faculty and staff are invited to a reception on Monday, November 6, in Heritage Lounge to see the portrait hanging in its new home from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Cheri and I look forward to seeing you there.

Earlier in the day, Indiana State received approval from the State Budget Committee for the release of \$37.5 million in state capital appropriations for a project not to exceed \$50 million for the renovation of Hulman Center. We are very grateful to the Indiana General Assembly former Gov. Mike Pence, current Gov. Eric Holcomb, Rep. Tim Brown, former Sen. Luke Kenley and Sen. Ryan Mishler for their support of this much-needed project. Sen. Jon Ford was a tireless advocate for the project along with Rep. Bob Heaton and our area legislators. I would also like to recognize Greg Goode and Diann McKee for their continuous efforts on securing this approval. Construction will begin following the 2017-18 men's and women's basketball seasons and continue for about 26 months. The university will continue to hold limited activities in Hulman Center during the renovation period. It is exciting to see this project move forward.

On the personnel front, the search for an executive director of human resources is underway to replace Associate Vice President Wil Downs who is retiring in January. Storbeck-Pimental is assisting with the search, and the position profile can be found on their website at: <http://www.storbeckpimentel.com/pd/ISU/CHRO.pdf>.

Chris Olsen, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, will be chairing the search committee for the dean of the College of Technology. The committee membership is in the process of being finalized, and it will begin meeting prior to Thanksgiving.

Also, Andrew Shepard-Smith has joined the College of Graduate and Professional Studies as director of Sponsored Programs. He has served as a research administrator for more than 15 years in positions at Vincennes University, Austin Peay State University, and Youngstown State University.

Other items I would like to share:

- There is still time to register for a special Sesquicentennial event celebrating Indiana State's Cordell Collection and the Schick Lecture Series and featuring hosts of the popular NPR radio show "A Way with Words." The event is on November 9, 2017 in the Cunningham Memorial Library Events Area. Proceeds from the event will benefit the library's Special Collections. Tickets are \$100 per person and departments or individuals may sponsor student tickets at \$50 or \$400 per table. For more information and to register go to: attend.com/waywithwords.
- Mini-grants ranging from \$300 to \$2,500 are available on a competitive basis to support events and programs connected to the University's Sesquicentennial Era Celebration which continues through January 2020. Events and programs must be promoted and advertised as a Sesquicentennial event. Because of the number of requests received for reunions and anniversaries, they are only eligible for \$1,000 on a one-time basis during the four years of the grant program. The deadline for the grants to be used in 2018 is November 30, 2017. To apply, go to: https://indstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9Nv3Gd1Oc1Q5qkJ. Questions about the grant program may be directed to Teresa Exline at teresa.exline@indstate.edu or 812-237-7783.
- There is currently one vacancy for an at-large position on the President's Council on Inclusive Excellence. If you are interested in serving, please submit a self-nomination explaining why to president@indstate.edu by November 6.
- The Gender Studies 450 class will once again be hosting ISU's annual Take Back the Night event on Wednesday, November 15. The event is designed to inform and educate the campus and community about gender-based violence and to work towards developing solutions to eradicate it. The theme of this year's event is #WeHearYou. Take Back the Night will kick off with a resource fair and art show from 5 to 6 p.m. in HMSU Dede II and III followed by an indoor rally from 6 to 6:30 p.m. in Dede I and a campus march from 6:30 to 7 p.m. The Council on Domestic Abuse is the community partner for the event, and donations of items from CODA's wish list are being accepted at the event or in Linda Maule's office in Normal Hall Room 206. For more information on items needed, go to: <http://www.codaterrehaute.org/wish-list.html>.
- Congratulations to Indiana State's team that placed second out of 18 teams in the Conexus Indiana logistics case competition at the Rolls-Royce Collaboration Center. The team won a \$2,000 cash award during the three-day event designed to increase awareness of career opportunities in logistics. A team from Purdue placed first while a team from Indiana University placed third. Team members Lucas Young, Nadia Snedeker, Tanner Smith and Roland Wilson were advised by Associate Professor Kuntal Bhattacharyya. Great job!
- The National Institutes of Health has awarded Indiana State a \$1.2 million, four-year grant to prepare a pipeline of students from underrepresented groups to enter the fields of bioinformatics and biomedical sciences. The grant procured by Assistant Professor Yongsheng Bai will support research opportunities for students to maximize and accelerate their knowledge of big data in medical research. The first cohort of five students will be selected this academic year with their research experience to begin in summer of 2018. Associate Professor Jeff Kinne and Professor Rusty Gonser are helping to create the curriculum.
- Open enrollment has already started for 2018 health coverage and will conclude on November 22, 2017. The current Preferred Provider Plan (PPO) and the Flexible Spending Account (FSA) will continue to be offered in 2018 with no changes in coverage. If you want to stay on this plan, you do not need to fill out any new health coverage paperwork. The new option for 2018 is the High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) with a Health Savings Account (HSA). If you would like to enroll in this coverage that is effective January 1, 2018, then you need to fill out open enrollment paperwork and turn it in to Employee Benefits. The HDHP features lower premiums compared

to the university's current plan, the PPO. The HDHP has a \$2,000 individual deductible and a \$6,000 total family deductible for in-network services with the employee paying 20% on most services after the deductible is met. The plan would continue to offer 100% first dollar coverage for preventive and well-baby care services. Each employee who elects to participate in the HDHP must open a Health Savings Account (HSA). The University will contribute \$500 for the employee only plan and \$1,000 for a family plan into the HSA account on an annual basis. Employees may also contribute to their HSA through payroll deduction on a pre-tax basis up to the IRS limits. A representative from Aon Benefits Consulting will be on campus November 8 and 9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Rankin Hall 321 to assist employees with individual questions regarding the new plan. Appointments are available by contact Employee Benefits at (812) 237-4151.

- Congratulation to the staff of the Math and Writing Center for having achieved the College Reading and Learning Association's level 2 certification. Under the leadership of Nicole Bailey and Ellie Pounds, the Center has worked over a period of two years to achieve this rating that is competitive to obtain given the emphasis placed on extensive training in tutor pedagogy and content.
- The Department of Theater will present "A Streetcar Named Desire" directed by Arthur Feinsod on November 8-11 at 7:30 p.m. and November 12 at 4 p.m. in the New Theater. Tickets are \$10, free for students with ISU student ID, and \$5 for non-ISU students with valid student ID. The New Theater Ticket Office is open from noon to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and one hour before each performance.
- Congratulations to ISU's chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma, an honorary fraternity for insurance and risk management students. The chapter was recognized with the Well-Rounded Chapter Award and the International Chapter Award at the organization's annual conference conducted last month.
- Racing legend Bobby Unser will speak about his life experiences and what it takes to be a winner during a University Speakers Series presentation at 7 p.m. on November 8 in Tilson Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public and will be followed by a meet and greet.
- Congratulations to Program Director Tatsiana Singh and the ISU Physician Assistant Program on being granted continued accreditation by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA).

With warm regards,
Daniel J. Bradley
President