

April 15, 2019 Message to campus from President Curtis (transcript):

It is my pleasure to bring this second campus update of the 2019 semester to you today.

First, I would like to thank all of you who contributed to our Give to Blue Day of Giving last month. It was fun to see the competitive spirit both on and off campus as our alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends of the university got involved. The results were record-breaking with nearly 1,700 donors – from Terre Haute to Australia – contributing more than \$430,000 making this the largest single-day fundraiser in our university's history. Congratulations and thanks to Vice President Andrea Angel, Director of Annual Giving Hilary Duncan and the entire Advancement team as well as others who contributed to this phenomenal success. This is just the beginning of more great things to come in private fundraising for our university.

The state's biennial budget session continues, and it will still be a few weeks before we know the final outcome. ISU alumnus Dennis Faulkenberg and his colleague Laurie Maudlin have done a tremendous job in keeping our priorities in front of the legislature. Once we know the results of the state budget, we will be working to finalize our recommended 2019-2020 budget including tuition. At that point, I will provide another update to campus.

Also on the legislative front, we are excited to be welcoming back Greg Goode in an expanded role as executive director of government relations and university communication. He will return on May 1, and I am looking forward to working with him to craft our continuing message that Indiana State University is providing a high quality educational experience for students across this state, and throughout the Midwest.

Since last fall, a series of meetings concerning Homecoming have taken place with campus leaders, local business owners, law enforcement agencies and others. We have been working closely with Mayor Duke Bennett, the city police, and the sheriff's office to improve safety so that everyone can enjoy our Homecoming festivities. Students in a service learning course led by Professor Darlene Hantzis have also been studying the issue. Later this month, the students will be providing the administration with their observations and suggestions. Another meeting with city leadership will take place, and plans for the 2019 Homecoming will be announced during the first week of May. Thank you to everyone who is assisting with this project.

Recently, the Student Government Association led a student referendum to support a \$75 wellness fee designed to increase mental health services and programming on campus. I would like to recognize our student leaders for their leadership and compassion on this issue. They are modeling the type of engaged citizens we want our graduates to be.

The administration is currently engaging in discussions to develop its recommendation in light of the proposal's impact on our budget process. Implementing a new fee is a complex matter that must be considered carefully.

I would also like to commend our students and all those who helped them in advocating once again for a vote center on campus for the upcoming municipal elections. The primary election will take place on May 7 with the general election to select a mayor and other city officials on November 5. We are

pleased that our students will again have access to this important civic experience and hope they will continue to exercise their right to vote after graduation.

A Provost evaluation is underway in accordance with the guidelines in the Faculty Handbook section of the University Policy Library. Vice President Nancy Rogers is chairing the review committee which began meeting earlier this month. The review includes the distribution of surveys to three groups: Direct reports to the Provost, other faculty and staff in academic affairs, and administrative leaders in other divisions. The survey portal opened up on April 9<sup>th</sup> and will close on April 26<sup>th</sup>. The review committee will provide a report to me next month.

Fundraising for our Habitat for Humanity Build continues with \$25,000 of the \$60,000 raised to date. Habitat is currently conducting a raffle for four travel packages with tickets available for \$20. Another fundraiser, the Craft Brew Fest for the Wabash Valley will take place on April 20 at the Terre Haute Brew Company, and the Division of Student Affairs is planning a luau on campus on July 18. Our goal is to break ground in September with our construction management students coordinating the wall build for the home some time that month. Stay tuned to ISU Today for announcements on fundraising events and opportunities to participate in the third Habitat Home sponsored by our University.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for all that you have done for our students and our university this year. The ultimate results of the work we do will be evidenced at our May 11<sup>th</sup> Commencement as we celebrate the 2,194 students who will have earned degrees this spring. Congratulations to all of our graduating students and thank you to the faculty and staff who work tirelessly to guide out graduates toward this day. Their lives have been forever changed, and you continue to be that catalyst that impacts our society for generations to come.

Thank you.