

Message to Campus from President Deborah J. Curtis, 8/20/2019

Hello.

It is my great pleasure to welcome our students, faculty, and staff as we begin another academic year starting today with the first day of classes.

This is a special time for the students we serve. There is a vibrancy on campus that reflects the energy we feel day in and day out as we fulfill our mission to educate our students.

I often say to lawmakers that Indiana State University is the State of Indiana's university because of the students we serve, who are predominantly from Indiana and stay in Indiana following graduation. The students here today are future leaders in communities around our state, and we are so grateful to play such an important part in their personal and professional growth.

Our physical campus continues to look better and better, and we are grateful to our elected officials who support the investments in our facilities. I am excited that the Fine Arts and Commerce Building re-opens this semester. The re-dedication of that historic facility will occur in November, but please take some time to see how this building has been transformed for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

I also hope you will join me on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> for my Fall Address to campus at 3:00 in Tilson Auditorium followed by a reception in the Heritage Ballroom. The Fall Address is a time to acknowledge new members of the ISU family and celebrate achievements. It will also be an opportunity for updates on important initiatives relating to enrollment and the process by which we will revisit our mission, vision, and values in preparation for developing our next strategic plan.

Looking ahead to Homecoming, the university has worked closely with the City of Terre Haute and Vigo County on a safe and fun week of activities. New guidelines will be available soon online. They reflect best practices and strong interaction with our community. It will be an exciting season of Sycamore football and Homecoming will offer a high profile opportunity for all of us to support the Sycamores and Coach Mallory.

Finally, in addition to our academic commitments, let's take time to celebrate being Sycamores. Our university offers so many opportunities with athletics, the arts, a speaker series, and intellectual engagement. We are so fortunate to be here and I encourage all of us to participate in campus activities and invite our friends in the community to join us.

I look forward to working together to advance our university.

Thank you.