

# Message from the President

Dear Sycamore Family,

On this last day of university business before the Thanksgiving holiday, I want to share a message of joy and thanks. It may seem difficult to find joy and thanks right now given the COVID-19 pandemic, social injustice issues, and budget worries. Well, I'd like to say that this is exactly the time for us all to stop, take stock of our many blessings here at Indiana State and choose to express joy in this season of gratitude.

Particularly, I want to express deep gratitude and appreciation for this beautiful campus where we all come to teach, learn and discover throughout the year. Our grounds and facilities colleagues maintain a campus that is a sanctuary in the midst of a busy city that brings us all together in a park-like setting. Our building service staff has worked incredibly hard to not only keep spaces clean but also to keep them safe in this COVID-challenged environment. We are truly fortunate to work in such a treasured and well-cared-for place.

We are so grateful that staff members on this campus have kept this university open and operating, despite the stress of different combinations of work schedules. Classroom facilitation by faculty required all kinds of support by staff. You did that with exceptional skill and determination. This type of commitment isn't something that comes easily. We are so grateful for your talent and heart as you moved this campus along each and every day.

Without a doubt, we have found joy in our ability to deliver a semester this fall that was as close to normal as possible. Faculty members not only shifted immediately to online in spring, but they also spent much time preparing for this fall semester. Without knowing whether we would be able to remain face-to-face or for how long, they essentially prepared for several types of courses to be delivered at the same time. It is this dedication to providing our best to our students that allowed campus to complete the fall 2020 semester as originally planned. Thank you so much for that commitment to the mission of this university and the education of our students.

And finally, we are thankful and find great joy in how readily our students took on the challenges of pursuing their education this year. Students at Indiana State University are a special group. They are upbeat, energetic, hard-working, and resilient. As they remember 2020 many years from now, they will have the satisfaction of knowing how they took on these challenges and pushed forward. Our students are the future of this great state, and we can all agree that in their hands our future will be bright.

So now to all of you I want to say Happy Thanksgiving. Although not a Thanksgiving like any other, I wish you joy and happiness as you give thanks and commune safely as best you can with family and friends. You will be front and center in my thoughts as I give thanks during this season of gratitude.

With sincere appreciation,



Deborah J. Curtis, Ph.D.  
President

