

January 24, 2018

Dear colleagues,

My first three weeks on the job have been a whirlwind, and I am so honored to be serving as the twelfth president of Indiana State University. It is great to be back on the campus that started my higher education career path through an excellent Ph.D. program. It has also been thrilling to see the great work that has been accomplished here, especially in the last ten years under the leadership of President Dan Bradley.

Lynn and I moved into Condit House on January 2. The next three days were spent in the office, and then the alumni tour in Florida began. In Sarasota, Tampa, Orlando and Naples, we met with alumni who shared wonderful stories about their experiences at Indiana State and how their lives were forever changed as a result of the faculty and staff who influenced them. It is so gratifying to hear these stories that serve as a great reminder of why our work is important.

Since returning to campus, my time has been devoted to meeting as many stakeholders, both internal and external as possible. These meetings have included students, faculty, staff, Faculty Senate, Staff Council, legislators, donors, local and state leaders, and others. Thank you to everyone for the warm welcome we have received everywhere we go. These meetings will continue over the coming months, and I pledge to turn up the volume on the great work our University is doing. Initially, my emphasis will be:

- Continuing our efforts to invite students in the door and help them achieve their educational goals;
- Working in Indianapolis to share the story of the special role Indiana State fills in the state's higher education system and advocating for resources to assist with fulfilling our mission; and
- Engaging with alumni and donors to raise more private dollars to support our students and programs.

To assist with the third, Indiana State has worked with The Registry, an organization that places seasoned higher ed administrators in temporary leadership positions, to hire an interim Vice President for Development and CEO of the ISU Foundation. J. Douglas Smith, who has served as the vice president for advancement and CEO of the foundation at both the University of North Texas at Dallas and Bowling Green State University, began his work on January 8. He is familiar with Terre Haute, having also served in an interim role leading advancement at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. I look forward to working with Doug to build our fundraising efforts.

I would also like to congratulate Dr. Greg Bierly on being named dean of the new Honors College. Greg has done an amazing job of building our honors program.

A search will be launched soon for someone to lead our enrollment management, marketing and communications efforts. The search for the dean of the College of Technology is underway, and finalists are expected to be on campus in late March. Ken Brauchle will be retiring as dean of extended learning later this year, and Lynn Maurer, dean of the College of Graduate and Professional Studies, is leaving for a new opportunity. Searches for both positions will begin soon.

This newsletter will be utilized to communicate with you about major events, issues and good news going on at Indiana State. It is impossible to report all of the activities that are happening on our campus so that will be left to the newly reformatted ISU Today, the ISU Newsroom and other vehicles already in place. However, there are a few announcements I would like to share:

- Volunteers are needed for the Presidential Scholarship interview sessions taking place on Saturday, February 3. The morning session runs from 8:30 to 1:15 while the afternoon session begins at 12:30 and runs through 5:15. This is a great opportunity for these high-achieving students to meet faculty and staff. To sign up, go to [indstate.edu/volunteer](http://indstate.edu/volunteer). Your assistance is appreciated.
- The Indiana State University campaign for the United Way raised \$60,338 from 305 donors with Vanguard (donors of \$1,000 or more) members increasing from 16 to 22 individuals. Thanks to all who supported this worthwhile cause that will impact services to individuals throughout the Wabash Valley.
- An incredible 27 Indiana State University students have been nominated by their employers for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual IMPACT Intern of the Year Award hosted by the Indiana INTERNnet program. Winners will be announced at a February 7<sup>th</sup> luncheon in Indianapolis.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Dr. Deborah J. Curtis  
President