

Dear colleagues,

November is upon us, and our North Central Association Higher Learning Commission visit is just around the corner. I appreciate the hard work that so many of you have put forth in preparing the institution's self-study on the five core criteria for accreditation and the special emphasis self-study focused on community engagement and experiential learning.

I encourage you to review these documents prior to the site team's visit on November 14 through 17. They can be accessed at: <http://irt2.indstate.edu/nca2010/>.

If you have been asked to participate in a meeting with the site team, please do. There are also three open meetings for faculty, staff and students to interact with members of the site team. They will all take place from 4 to 4:45 p.m. on Monday, November 15. The faculty meeting will be in Hulman Memorial Student Union 307. The meeting for staff members will be in HMSU 320, and the session for students will be in HMSU 321.

I would like to thank Jack Maynard and Virgil Sheets for co-chairing the accreditation leadership committee, Susan Powers and Nancy Rogers for co-chairing the steering committee and the self-study process, Ed Kinley for serving as the liaison to the NCA, and Bob Guell for serving as a faculty fellow for the self-study. Patty McClintock led the data and analysis team and the committees addressing the core criteria were led by Bob English and Eric Glendening (Mission and Integrity); Michael Murphy and Mark Green (Acquisition, Discovery and the Application of Knowledge); Scott Buchanan and Diann McKee (Preparing for the Future); Liz O'Laughlin and Nancy Rogers (Engagement and Service Committee); and Susan Powers and Bob Guell (Student Learning and Effective Teaching). In addition, the provost led the Mission Team and Nancy Rogers chaired the Special Emphasis Committee. Your leadership is appreciated.

Accountability is becoming increasingly more important in higher education. I have joined 70 other college and university presidents in a new venture known as the Presidents' Alliance for Excellence in Student Learning and Accountability. This group of institutions will be working to gather more evidence about student learning that can then be used to improve instruction. I have also pledged to provide the public with more information about the quality of learning on our campuses.

This effort builds off of the exceptional work completed by our faculty and staff in creating the new Foundational Studies Program and our efforts to be transparent to the public by participating in the Voluntary System of Accountability College Portrait program. You can learn

more about the Alliance in the Chronicle of Higher Education's online issue at:

http://chronicle.com/article/71-Presidents-Pledge-to/125285/?sid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en.

Other updates I would like to share:

- Congratulations to the Student Government Association for organizing this week's Diversity Week activities to help celebrate ISU's diversity and raise awareness and understanding of several related issues. The week was planned in conjunction with the 2010 Diversity Research and Teaching Symposium organized by University Diversity Officer Mary Ferguson and her staff. They were assisted by a steering committee of individuals from across campus and a proposal review committee. The symposium takes place tomorrow (November 6) from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and features 35 sessions and a keynote address on "Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice" by Dr. Barbara Love, associate professor emerita from University of Massachusetts-Amherst. More than 135 individuals from the Midwest are registered to attend.

- The ISU Counseling Center and Student Health Promotions also hosted a successful conference this week. The Mid-American College Health fall meeting took place Wednesday and Thursday and brought together more than 100 attendees from Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and Illinois to discuss health-related issues pertinent to college populations. Bridget Gaddis and Aimee Janssen-Robinson coordinated the event, and Dr. Kenneth Chew served as the keynote speaker.

- Building enrollment and improving retention are goals shared by all of us, and I would like to thank the Hispanic Student Association for their assistance. These ISU students spent a recent Saturday meeting students from the La Plaza's "Tu Futuro" program in Indianapolis who were on campus for a tour provided by the Admissions Office. The peer-to-peer interaction provided these prospective students with a straightforward look at what Indiana State has to offer.

- Our community engagement efforts also continue to grow:
 - The annual Jam the Bus food drive brought in 5,451 pounds of food for Catholic Charities to distribute to area families.

 - Indiana State was also proud to be a part of the Wabash Valley Disaster Recovery Coalition, a group of 60 organizations led by the United Way of the Wabash Valley and the Wabash Valley Community Foundation to coordinate relief efforts

following the June 2008 flood. A total of 405 families received assistance (100 percent of those of who qualified) at an average of \$12,145 per family. ISU hosted an alternative spring break program which brought in college students from other parts of the country to assist with home repair efforts.

- Our own students will be dedicating their spring break to helping others by going to one of three locations: New Orleans to assist youth affected by Hurricane Katrina; Pensacola, Florida, to aid in the restoration of the Gulf Coast ecosystem affected by the oil spill; and Haysi, Virginia, to relieve low-income, rural communities by upgrading water systems and boosting economic development. Campus members can assist by joining the Adopt a Breaker Campaign. Donors giving \$25 to \$50 will receive a picture and bio of their adopted spring breaker, while donors of \$75 to \$100 will receive the picture and bio along with an ISU keepsake. Please consider helping our students in assisting others in need. For more information, contact Juliane Masciana at jmasciana@indstate.edu.
- The Office of Human Resources is gearing up a new training and development area to provide employees with new professional development opportunities. The Training and Professional Development Advisement Committee needs your input on what specific training and technical needs you have. Share your thoughts by completing the survey (by Nov. 8th) at: https://indstate.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_50FToiSyqfstD6Y.
- The Staff Council will be conducting a second opportunity for staff members to meet with their council representatives, hear updates from various campus offices and share opinions about working at Indiana State University. The session will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 8, in HMSU 307. Refreshments will be served.
- Indiana has many servicemen and women who will be spending this holiday season far away from families and friends. Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman is once again conducting a holiday season mail campaign for troops called "Hoosier Cheer for Our Heroes." Her office is collecting cards that will be sent to Indiana troops around the world. If you want to participate, send cards and letters by Friday, Nov. 19, to: Office of Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman, Hoosier Cheer for Our Heroes, 200 W. Washington Street, Suite 333, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2797. Electronic notes can also be sent to lg@lg.in.gov.
- On Thursday, our efforts to share the news of Indiana State around the state continued with a full day of activities in Evansville. In addition to an address to the Evansville Breakfast Rotary Club, a radio interview, a meeting with University Evansville President

Tom Kazez and a visit to Harrison High School, we had a wonderful reception with Evansville area alumni. The highlight was an outstanding performance by the ISU Concert Choir conducted by Scott Buchanan.

- This weekend is a busy one for Sycamore Athletics. Come out to root for the Football, Volleyball and Basketball programs! The football team will be fighting for a share of first place in the conference when they go up against Northern Iowa at 3 p.m. tomorrow. The men's basketball exhibition against Wabash College has been moved to noon so that everyone can get to the football game on time. All those with tickets to the basketball game will receive free admission into the football game and the volleyball match at 7 p.m. Saturday night against Southern Illinois. GO TREES!
- There are also many, many cultural events on our campus week in and week out. Indiana State offers an incredible number of art exhibits, plays, concerts, recitals, visiting lectures, and other activities to our students, faculty, staff and the residents of the Wabash Valley. I encourage you to take advantage of them. Cheri and I personally enjoy as many of these events as possible. Thanks to all those who share their talents.

Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley
President