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CAMPUS ANNOUNCEMENT
April 22, 2021

Letter from ISU President Deborah J. Curtis on the state budget

COVID-19 has impacted how every company, organization, and person conduct business. The Indiana General Assembly also had to adjust to how it typically operates during this legislative session. Nevertheless, Indiana State University continued to have its full-time presence at the Statehouse every day with Greg Goode, and I had the opportunity to make a number of formal presentations of ISU's priorities to the Commission for Higher Education, the State Budget Committee, and the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Today, with bi-partisan support, the legislature adopted a two-year state budget. We are fortunate to live and work in Indiana. Once again, the Governor and the legislature demonstrated their commitment to public higher education by:

- Restoring the 7% cut for FY 2022 (this cut was made last year in response to the pandemic's impact on state revenues).
- Providing 2% in new state funding for higher education.
- Maintaining university line items that fund priority initiatives such as the Indiana Principal Leadership Institute, which is housed in the ISU Bayh College of Education.
- Maintaining funding for general repair and rehabilitation needs on campuses.

As you know, the state allocates operating appropriations to universities partially based on performance metrics that measure student completion and graduation rates. ISU has been working very hard to make improvements in these areas and we did very well this

session, earning more operating appropriation dollars than in the past dozen years. This is really important, and we are thankful to our state leaders for their continued confidence in Indiana State University.

I would like to especially express our gratitude to Governor Eric Holcomb, Higher Education Commissioner Teresa Lubbers, House Speaker Todd Huston, and Senate President Pro Temp Rod Bray. We are also very grateful to House Ways and Means Chair Tim Brown and Senate Appropriations Chair Ryan Mishler. Finally, we acknowledge and thank our local delegation of legislators — Jon Ford, Bob Heaton, Tonya Pfaff, and Alan Morrison — who work so hard to advocate for ISU and the Terre Haute region.

It is great to be Sycamore!

Sincerely,
Deborah J. Curtis, PhD
President