

September 5, 2008

Dear faculty, staff and students,

As our second month on campus unfolds, Cheri and I would like to thank everyone for including us in a wide array of activities these past few weeks. We have enjoyed getting to meet many students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members. I would like to extend a special thank you to everyone who stopped by Cheri's lemonade stand to meet her and welcome her to ISU. You have all helped validate our decision to come to Terre Haute, a community in which we already are feeling very much at home.

I also appreciate the briefings, tours, and other information I have been provided as I work to become more acquainted with our University, its assets and its challenges. It is clear to me that the faculty and staff are ready to move forward, and I believe we have the talent, community support, and the resources to achieve measurable progress on multiple fronts.

On Tuesday, I invite all of you to my fall address which will begin at 3 p.m. in Tilson Music Hall and will be followed by a faculty, administrative and support staff reception in Heritage Ballroom. In addition to welcoming some of our new personnel and celebrating some of the successes of the past year, I will be outlining the board-defined priorities for this year. I also am pleased that the leaders of our Faculty Senate, Support Staff Council, and Student Government Association will bring greetings from their constituents during the address.

Other updates:

Enrollment – We are pleased to see an increase in first-time freshmen for the third year in a row. This number has grown by 18 percent in the past three years. This growth reflects the hard work of a number of people in addressing what continues to be our top priority. These efforts must continue. The recently formed Enrollment and Retention Task Force is meeting weekly to develop five to ten strategies on ways we can positively impact enrollment and retention for fall 2009. As we move forward with our strategic planning, we will be developing and implementing long-range strategies to address this critical issue.

Board of Trustees Retreat -- On Thursday, all nine of the University's Trustees, including our newly appointed members [Tanya Bell](#) and [Randall Minas](#), participated in a day-long retreat on our campus. Faculty Senate Chair Virgil Sheets and Support Staff Council Chair Roxanne Torrence also attended along with members of the Cabinet. At lunch, we were joined by Student Government Association President Michael Scott, Jr., and other leaders from the SGA, Faculty Senate and the Support Staff Council.

At the luncheon meeting, we were provided with an [update](#) on fundraising by ISU Foundation President Gene Crume. Gene reported that the Foundation experienced a 21 percent increase in donations during the 2007-08 fiscal year. Annual giving grew from \$1.53 million to \$1.72 million, while major gifts increased from \$3.9 to \$5.7 million. The Foundation is in the leadership phase of a comprehensive campaign that will move into its public phase next year.

Congratulations to Gene and Trustee Mike Alley, who is serving as chair of the campaign, along with the other staff and volunteers who are moving our private fundraising efforts forward.

During my portion of the retreat, I provided an overview of my first month at ISU along with a report on the board's priorities for this fiscal year. Both of these presentations are available on my website at <http://www1.indstate.edu/president/prescomm.html>. We will be utilizing this site to post additional presentations and reports.

The trustees also toured some of our residence halls and athletic facilities. At the end of the tour, they greatly enjoyed visiting the Cunningham Memorial Library's Extravaganza. This impressive event attracted nearly half of all of our students to the library on this single day. The library faculty and staff are justly proud of this annual activity, which is also supported by other areas throughout the campus.

I would like to thank the trustees and campus leaders who participated in the retreat for dedicating their time to what I thought was a very informative and productive day.

Project PRE Recognition – Our College of Education's Project Partnering to Reform Education (Project PRE) has been recognized by the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future (NCTAF) and is currently featured on the [NCTAF website](#). The program involves more than 50 ISU faculty and staff from across the campus, hundreds of K-12 teachers from our Professional Development School Partnership, and teacher education students in exploring best practices and developing innovative methods to prepare students for successful teaching careers. Congratulations to the College and all of the faculty, staff and students involved in this program.

Campus events -- As the academic year gets fully underway, I hope that you will take advantage of the many cultural, academic, athletic and other events available to our campus and community. Cheri and I are looking forward to attending as many events as we can. Our university is blessed with an abundance of talent among our own students, faculty, and staff as well as the ability to bring in top-notch productions and speakers through our [Performing Arts Series](#) and the [University Speakers Series](#). When you add in the art exhibits, academic events, lectures by visiting scholars, and an array of student activities, there is certainly not a lack of things to do. Campus and community events are available on the University's [Calendar](#) website.

Sincerely,

Daniel Bradley
President