

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back and Happy New Year. I met with a group of new transfer students today, and they are very excited to be at ISU and are eager to get started with their classes on Monday. I told them that we are all here to help them be successful. Please keep that goal uppermost in your mind as you go about your work next week and always.

There has been much in the news, in the past few months, concerning the state of the economy in Indiana and throughout the country. From what I have seen, things are better here than in many parts of the nation, but that does not mean that we will be immune from budget challenges. The Indiana Commission for Higher Education last fall recommended to the legislature that our budget, and those of the other higher education institutions, be cut in each of the next two years. Ours by \$1,378,141 in FY 2010 and \$1,438,836 in FY 2011. Today, the Governor has recommended further cuts for us totaling an additional \$2,626,076, which includes the 1% reversion of appropriation for 2008-09 that I reported to you in an earlier newsletter.

Those of you who have been around for a while know that budget cuts are just a part of life. Higher education has struggled financially for a long time. I say that to assure you that we have the processes in place to respond to these proposed cuts and others if they occur. It is very early in the legislative process that will ultimately determine our state appropriation for the next two years. We will not know with any certainty what our total budget will be until late spring.

It is my intention to use the Governor's proposed budget as a starting point in our planning. We will be conservative, particularly in filling vacant positions. Keep in mind that our employees, at all levels, are what make ISU such a great place. Our top priorities will be to maintain direct services to students and to protect the jobs of our current employees. I am confident that careful planning, coupled with good management of resources, will allow us to weather these bad economic times and continue to provide high-quality instruction and services to our students.

In addition to our budget planning, our strategic planning process is also continuing. Dr. Sal Rinella, Dr. Peter Facione and Jennifer Stripe, the individuals from STRATUS assisting with the development of our strategic plan, will return to campus next week for a series of more than 30 small-group meetings. There are also two open forums planned to allow more people to get involved in the process. On Wednesday, January 14, there will be an open forum from 2 to 4 p.m. in Dede I. This will be similar to the forum that occurred in December, and I would encourage anyone who did not attend the earlier forum to try to participate in this one. This is a great opportunity for you to provide your input into shaping the University's future.

Also on Wednesday, we will host a forum especially for students from 5:30 to 7 p.m. We know that the first week of classes is a busy time for everyone, but we hope the students will take the time to come and share their thoughts. Maybe the FREE FOOD will help build attendance. Please encourage your students to get involved.

I would also like to share a few recent achievements:

- John Newton, vice president of the ISU Foundation for alumni and constituent relations, was recently recognized as the 2008 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District V. John received this prestigious honor at the CASE V annual meeting in December. John's service as chair and treasurer of the district board, along with his incredible 35-year career in advancement here at Indiana State were among the reasons cited for his selection. I hope that you will join me in congratulating John.
- ISU's Teachers of Tomorrow Advancing Learning (TOTAL) pilot program has been receiving a lot of attention recently including being featured in this week's electronic newsletter of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education as well as a newsletter distributed by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, an international organization representing more than 175,000 educators from 119 countries. The TOTAL program is an immersion semester prior to student teaching that provides students with an opportunity to work alongside a classroom teacher who has been trained in a specific coaching model of supervision. Accolades go to the College of Education faculty for developing the program and to the staff in Communications and Marketing who have been working to promote it.
- Indiana State has also received attention in the most recent issue of University Business Magazine which included the development of the "More. From day one." tagline as one of the 50 best branding ideas. The magazine praised the university for basing our tagline on a true story of a student who moved into the residence hall and started working for the student newspaper the same day. He later became an editor of the Indiana Statesman. I have heard many stories about how ISU provided its students with "More. From day one." I hope that we will continue to seek ways to fulfill this promise.
- Two Indiana State University have decided to give back to their alma mater for the opportunities ISU provided them. I would like to extend deep appreciation to Mike and Amy Alley for their \$1 million commitment to the March On! campaign for Indiana State University. The Alleys have been active members of the Indiana State University family since their college days in the late seventies. Mike is currently serving as chair of both the ISU Board of Trustees and the March On! Campaign. Their gift will support the new College of Education through the development of the Micro Education Center which will provide first-year education students exposure to real-life classroom experiences. Part

of the donation also will go toward the College of Business and student activities. Thank you, Mike and Amy.

I hope all of you have a great start to the new semester. Thank you for your continued service to Indiana State University and our students.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley
President