

January 23, 2009

Dear colleagues,

This has been a very important week for our nation as we celebrate the peaceful transition of power in the White House. I hope that all of you were able to watch the inauguration of President Obama and/or the festivities surrounding this historic occasion. I understand that several hundred students, faculty and staff took advantage of the viewing locations in HMSU and the Library. I am proud of our institution's continued involvement in the American Democracy Project and feel strongly about encouraging our students to be engaged in the political process. Thanks to everyone who helps support these efforts throughout the year.

I would also like to express my appreciation to everyone involved in our tribute to Martin Luther King, both the dinner last Friday as well as the Day of Service activities sponsored by the Center for Public Service and Community Engagement on Monday. I was not able to attend the dinner Friday due to an unavoidable out-of-town professional commitment, but Cheri was there. She had high praise for everyone involved in the program and was especially moved by both the speeches and the music. I look forward to experiencing it firsthand next year. Thanks also to everyone who participated in the Day of Service, joining others across the country who utilized this national holiday as an opportunity to help those in need.

As the new U.S. administration begins to tackle the country's financial crisis, work continues on our campus regarding our own budget challenges. Earlier this week, I instructed the Vice Presidents and Deans to work on a three-year plan to address a potential loss of \$5.4 million in state operating appropriations that ISU might face if the Governor's proposed budget becomes reality. Our planning must also identify resources that can be reallocated to fund unavoidable increases in benefits and utilities as well as high-priority items including institutional student aid, library acquisitions and employee compensation. This is not an easy task. Utilizing the Governor's proposed budget and our planning assumptions on increased costs, we anticipate approximately \$10 million in reallocations over the next three years would be necessary. A copy of the memo I sent to the Vice Presidents and Deans is available at: <http://www1.indstate.edu/president/budgetplanning.pdf>.

It is important to remember that the targeted budget reductions may be modified as the state budget process advances through the legislature. If so, our planning will be modified accordingly.

As we work to address these challenges, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to our students and their success. Education is a critical element in addressing our country's economic woes, and we should all take pride in the many ways we can make a difference.

Other updates I would like to share:

- Thanks to everyone who participated in the strategic planning meetings last week. Your input is essential to the success of this important effort. I was especially pleased to see more than 75 students turn out on a cold, wintry night during the first week of classes to participate in an

open forum. Student Government Association President Michael Scott and his fellow SGA leaders did an exceptional job leading the group discussions. The next steps in this process include a series of meetings with external constituents in February followed by a campus-wide retreat which will take place after spring break in March.

- Last Thursday, it was my honor to participate in a ceremony marking the official transfer of the Indiana National Guard Armory on North 9th Street to Indiana State University. Maj. Gen Martin Umbarger, the state adjutant general of the Indiana National Guard, Mayor Duke Bennett and State Representatives Clyde Kersey and Vern Tincher were also on hand as the keys to this strategically located facility were turned over to ISU. Potential future uses for the facility will be explored as part of the land use and facilities assessment underway in conjunction with our strategic planning.
- Congratulations to the recreation management and youth leadership program for becoming the first in the state to achieve accreditation by the Indiana YouthPRO Association, a professional organization for individuals and groups working with school-age youth. The program exemplifies how incorporating community engagement and experiential learning into our students' experiences can help prepare them for their chosen fields.
- Team Sycamore Racing will be featured at the Gathering Before the Green Flag exhibition Saturday and Sunday at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis. Fans will have the opportunity to sit behind the wheel of a variety of racing vehicles, from Indy cars to go-carts and dragsters. This event provides an opportunity for our motorsports program to be showcased and gives our students a chance to network with others active in the industry.

Good luck to all of you during what I know will be both a challenging and rewarding semester. I look forward to seeing you at various events and hearing more about your own work and achievements.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley
President