

November 6, 2009

Dear colleagues,

With a wonderful Homecoming celebration behind us, the end of another semester is looming. I would like to once again thank everyone involved with Homecoming especially Freda Luers, Chris Hancock, Rex Kendall, Nolan Davis, Paula Meyer, Jesse Hile and the students on the Homecoming Steering Committee for making it a great success.

Congrats to Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Zeta Tau Alpha for winning the largest trike races in ISU's history. It was great to see so many teams involved and to have the Residence Hall Association, ISU Cycling Club and the Air Force ROTC sponsor teams along with the Greek organizations. The hope is to continue to build the race and the parade in coming years.

I know this is a busy time for everyone, and I deeply appreciate all that you do for our students and the community. I also would like to recognize the efforts of those who are starting the implementation process for "The Pathway to Success" strategic plan. There are dozens of faculty, staff and students involved on the various implementation teams, and there will be opportunities for others to be involved along the way. (See http://www.indstate.edu/strategic_plan/implementationteams.pdf for a current list of implementation teams.)

The teams will be utilizing the AMS Task Stream software program to keep track of their progress. This is the program that the University is implementing for assessment purposes, and it appears it will serve us well for the strategic planning implementation, too. The system will provide a central location for storing documents, uploading reports, soliciting input from team members and other tools.

The teams have also been given a series of deadlines for the first cycle of the planning process that will result in reports for each goal area being completed by mid-March. These reports will then be reviewed by audit teams. The final reports will be shared with the entire campus at a Stakeholders Conference on April 22, 2010 in Hulman Center. The conference will be open to the entire campus. (See important dates for first cycle at: http://www.indstate.edu/strategic_plan/stratplanimportantdates.pdf.)

A significant factor in how quickly we can advance some initiatives will be the availability of resources. We continue to monitor the state of Indiana's economy, and I am sure many of you saw this morning's announcement from Gov. Daniels indicating October's revenue collections fell short of the forecast by \$46 million. This is the fourth straight month the revenues have fallen below the forecasts with a \$309 million shortfall so far. Gov. Daniels announced additional spending cuts for state agencies today following the forecast news. At this time, higher education has not been asked to make any additional cuts.

Indiana State continues to be on solid financial footing thanks to the enrollment gains experienced this fall and the advance planning done to address the loss of state appropriations. Under the leadership of Vice President Diann McKee, the university recently underwent a bond rating view in anticipation of the

issue of housing and dining bonds for the renovation of Sandison Hall. Fitch Ratings confirmed the University's A+ rating for existing student fee debt and assigned the same rating to the housing and dining system revenue bonds (Series 2009). In addition, Moody's also reaffirmed the existing A2 rating of the University and assigned the A2 rating to the new bonds as well. Moody's also upgraded the outlook from stable to positive. These ratings reflect positively on the management of the university's finances.

In other news related to strategic planning, I have authorized Provost Maynard to move forward with the search for a new Dean of Extended Learning. This is an area that can generate a significant amount of enrollment growth in the coming years, and will be important to the University's future.

Cunningham Memorial Library is developing its own strategic plan and would also like your input. Faculty and staff are invited to a planning session on Wednesday, November 18, from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Library's events area on the main floor. The session will be facilitated by Dr. H.E. Broadbent who served as provost at Dowling College and has many years of experience in strategic planning and assessment. He has taught library classes at Drexel University and Clarion University of Pennsylvania and served as the library director at Ursinus College for ten years. Please join in this discussion and help influence the future direction of one of our greatest assets.

Other updates I would like to provide:

SODEXO RECEIVES GOLDEN REVIEWS – Indiana State is fortunate to have a great partnership with Sodexo in providing high-quality food services to our campus. I am pleased to report that Sodexo recently received Double Gold scores for its catering and residential food service operations in food safety and physical safety audits conducted by the National Sanitation Foundation. Congratulations to Sue Sluyter and her entire team for their excellent work!

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT – Next Thursday is the annual Take Back the Night rally where participants proclaim their right to live without fear of abuse, harassment or violence. The local event is organized by students in Linda Maule's student activism class and is part of an international effort that includes marches and rallies around the world. I encourage students, faculty and staff to attend the rally which starts at 6 p.m. on Dede Plaza. Thanks to the students who are helping to raise awareness about this important issue.

COATS FOR KIDS – Congratulations to the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity for raising more than \$2,550 during their third annual Coats for Kids fundraiser. The funds, along with three boxes of donated coats, will be sent to the national Coats for Kids charity to provide winter coats to families in need.

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT RAISES FUNDS FOR UNITED WAY – Last month, Cheri and I enjoyed participating in the Cornhole tournament sponsored by the Females in Technology and the Institute of Packaging Professionals. Competing on separate teams, we both failed to make it beyond the second round even though I had recruited my "ringer" (Provost Jack Maynard). Jack's experience at horseshoe pitching really helped our effort but wasn't enough to bring us any better success than Cheri had with her partner, Al Perone. ISU freshmen Kyler Rhodes and Jordan Defore took the title and will have their

names on the specially designed trophy that will be on display in the Student Recreation Center. This student-led endeavor raised \$450 for the ISU United Way Campaign. Thanks to the student organizations and their presidents, J.D. Jukes and Sarah Marietta, and to their advisor Bev Bitzegiao for hosting the event and to the 30 teams who participated.

UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT – Indiana State’s 2009 United Way Campaign has raised more than \$17,000 toward its \$75,000 goal. There is obviously a lot more work to be done. If you have not received or have misplaced your pledge card, it is available at the ISU United Way website at: http://www.indstate.edu/unitedway/pledge_form.pdf. Anyone who donates or pledges prior to December 1 will be eligible for a raffle drawing featuring an array of prizes donated by various campus leaders and units. More info on the prizes will be forthcoming, but you will want to be sure to return your pledge or donation in time to have a chance! The United Way of the Wabash Valley serves 42 agencies in six counties and provides much-needed services to our communities. Please consider making a gift, no matter what size it may be.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW MISS ISU – Taylor Schaffer, a junior communication major, is the new Miss ISU 2010 and will represent the university at the Miss Indiana pageant. Taylor also is a Sycamore Ambassador and a Sparkette and will be a great representative of Indiana State. Congrats also go to her mother, ISU Athletics Spirit Coordinator Tammy Schaffer.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley
President