

January 23, 2010

Dear colleagues,

Work continues on the development of a plan to address the \$10.47 million cut in state appropriations that Indiana State must absorb. As indicated earlier, I plan to share a draft of the proposed budget recommendations by the end of this month. While this process is unsettling, the collaborative approach to addressing the current fiscal crisis is a strength that distinguishes universities from other organizations. As a result of the efforts and input of many, ISU will remain strong and will become stronger as we work collectively to advance our strategic initiatives.

Along those lines, it is great to see that our spring enrollment is at its highest level in four years, up nearly four percent from last spring. Building enrollments and ensuring our students succeed in meeting their educational goals remain our top priority. Progress is being made and new programs such as Project Success, a pilot program designed to help students transition to college life, are having an impact. Other initiatives developed as part of the strategic planning process are taking shape. It is important that this work continue, and I would like to express my appreciation to everyone across campus who contributes to the recruitment and retention of our students. This is the key to our future.

Other items I would like to share:

- Indiana State's commitment to community engagement was evident on Monday when 225 students, faculty and staff served a day "on" rather than taking a day off by participating in the Center for Public Service and Community Engagement's Martin Luther King Jr. service project. Participation was up 50 percent from last year, and 17 agencies were assisted by our volunteers. Work projects included painting, shredding documents, organizing resource rooms, stuffing information packets and various other tasks the agencies needed completed. Thanks to everyone who volunteered and to the Center's staff for organizing the day's activities. The next one-day service event is April 24, Global Youth Service Day.
- In another tribute to the civil rights leader, the University hosted its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Dinner on Friday night. This sold-out event once again featured wonderful music by the Ebony Majestic Gospel Choir. The keynote speaker was Sterling Tucker from Washington, D.C., a colleague and close friend of Dr. King's. Rev. Elester Wilkerson did a great recitation of Dr. King's "I Have A Dream" speech. It was a wonderful evening and a fitting tribute to Dr. King and his legacy. Thanks to those in Student Affairs who put it together.
- As was noted at Friday night's dinner, much progress has been made, but more is needed. Indiana State's strategic plan, "The Pathway to Success," emphasizes the need to diversify our faculty and staff. A review of the University's search and hiring procedures is currently underway, and a survey is being sent to employees who have served on various search committees since 2006. If you receive the survey, I encourage you to take the time to complete it. Your input is an important part of this review process.
- There is still time to support the United Way before the annual campaign closes at the end of the month. Friday was United Day for the United Way, and Bev Bitzegaio did a great job

organizing Indiana State's participation. ISU collected \$1400 in donations and pledges at various collection points across campus. Those who contributed at least \$24 were included in a drawing for the right to designate which agencies would receive ISU's United Day donations. Winners of the drawing were: Linda Ferguson, Joyce Fulford, Valentine Muyumba, the Department of Psychology faculty and the Psychology Graduate Student Organization. ISU's campaign co-chairs Bruce and Connie McLaren and the campaign committee have done a remarkable job leading the university's overall efforts. To count toward this year's campaign, pledges or donations should be sent to Donna Isbell in the Center for Public Service and Community Engagement by Thursday, January 28.

- Congratulations to our student athletes for their continued academic success. During the fall semester, 187 student athletes achieved a 3.0 grade point average or higher with 19 receiving a 4.0 gpa.

Thanks for keeping our students at the center of our efforts and decision-making. Despite the serious fiscal challenges we face, Indiana State will continue to fulfill its mission in serving our students and the State of Indiana.

Have a good weekend.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley
President