

February 12, 2010

Dear colleagues,

The past few weeks have been a challenging time for everyone at our University. I would like to express my appreciation to the entire campus for the professional manner in which both supervisors and employees have dealt with the budget reductions and elimination of positions. I know this has been difficult, and I have been impressed with the compassion and respect shown throughout this process.

I also appreciate the feedback individuals have provided through the open forums, emails and conversations. (The third open forum will take place from noon to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, February 16, in HMSU Dede II.)

One point I would like to emphasize is that the proposed transitional retirement incentive plan was developed primarily for the University's benefit. It is designed to help address the current financial challenges and to build a stronger academic future for the institution. While some individuals will also benefit from the plan, the main goal was to benefit the University overall.

The proposed transitional retirement incentive plan and the revised retirement severance plan will go to the Board of Trustees for consideration next week. The Board will have a seminar on these plans and the budget reductions beginning at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 18, followed by the regular meeting of the trustees at 2:30 p.m. Both of these sessions will be in the State Room in Tirey Hall and are open to the public.

In the coming months, careful attention must be paid to the state's revenue collections and how they compare to the revenue forecast. In January, the revenues fell short once again, bringing in \$75 million less than anticipated. If this trend continues, it is possible that the University will face another cutback in state funding. If that occurs, it is my intent to avoid additional reductions in staffing if at all possible. The University's ability to do that will, of course, depend upon the level of cuts which might occur.

Looking forward, all of us must focus on advancing the institution by making progress toward our strategic goals. This will be the key to a strong and vibrant future for our university, our students and our employees.

As I reflect upon the challenges the economy has forced upon us, I am immensely encouraged by the many achievements of our students, faculty, staff and alumni. Here are just a few of the recent examples of why we should all take great pride in our University:

- Earlier today, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education approved the university's request to begin offering a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies. This new

program is part of an expansion of the College of Nursing, Health and Human Services designed to help address the critical shortage of health care workers, especially in rural areas. It is also directly connected to Indiana State's involvement in the Rural Health Innovation Collaborative (RHIC), a partnership with Union Hospital and its Richard G. Lugar Center for Rural Health, the IU School of Medicine, Ivy Tech, the Terre Haute Economic Development Corporation, and the city of Terre Haute. The approval of this program is the most significant addition to the University's degree offerings in more than a decade. Congratulations to Sister Barbara Batista who led the development of the program and Dean Biff Williams, Associate Dean Marcia Miller, Chair Leamore Kahanov and their colleagues.

- The works of ISU Professor of English Michael Shelden continue to garner international attention. His latest book, "Mark Twain: Man in White," was featured this week in *The New York Times*. The book focuses on Twain's later years. Dr. Shelden is the author of four literary biographies, including the Pulitzer Prize finalist, "Orwell: The Authorized Biography."
- Our Professional Development Schools (PDS) program, a partnership between the Bayh College of Education and five area school districts, has been selected as the 2010 recipient of the Award for Exemplary Professional Development School Achievement from the National Association for Professional Development Schools. This is a very competitive award that is based on demonstration of excellence in the nine essential areas of professional development school work. Since its inception in 1992, the PDS program has made a positive difference in the preparation of future teachers and the continuing development of teachers, principals, and other school personnel currently in the field. Kudos to Dr. Rebecca Libler, who directs the partnership, and all of the faculty, staff, and students from ISU and the partner PDS sites who have helped build this program.
- I would also like to recognize Dr. Swapan Ghosh, professor of biology, for securing a patent for a biomarker that could aid in determining disease. Dr. Ghosh and Nisreen Al-Shaibi, who was a doctoral student at the time of the research, worked on novel biomarkers that would help in tracking stem cells, called myeloid dendritic cells, which originate in bone marrow.
- ISU music alumnus David Darling received a 2010 Grammy Award for Best New Age Album. He received the music industry's coveted award for "Prayer for Compassion," a musical call for worldwide peace and understanding. David was also nominated for a Grammy in 2002 for his self-produced CD, "Cello Blue." A renowned cellist, David is the co-founder of "Music for People," an international non-profit educational network dedicated to teaching music as a means of creative self expression. David, who received bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from ISU, has performed all over the world in venues including Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall and Queen Victoria Hall.

- Indiana State alumnus Robert Tichy is one of 25 recent graduates selected from several thousand applicants for the Gov. Bob Orr Indiana Entrepreneurial Fellowship. The Orr Fellowship provides a unique opportunity for undergraduate students searching for their first salaried, full-time position following graduation. The two-year, post graduate experience places the fellows with some of Indiana's fastest growing entrepreneurial companies and provides them with access to monthly meetings with Indiana's top business leaders and companies. Robert has been placed with ExactTarget, a firm that specializes in email marketing software and services.

As you can see, Indiana State continues to make a mark on our community, our state, our nation, and the world. Let us all work to ensure that our university continues to move forward.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley
President