

May 8, 2010

Dear colleagues,

It is only a matter of hours until Commencement, and I know you share my joy in seeing our graduating students achieve this milestone. Everyone on campus contributes to our students' ability to succeed, and I would like to express my appreciation to all of you for your dedicated work.

One only has to listen to the story of our student Commencement speaker, **Shanel Poole**, to understand the impact faculty and staff can have on a student's life. Shanel will be recounting a period of her life when she slept in her car to avoid a turbulent home life. She became involved in drugs, got into trouble with the police and eventually ended up in juvenile detention. Indiana State – and the people who make Indiana State the great University it is – helped Shanel turn her life around. Congratulations to Shanel for making this happen and congratulations to everyone who helped her along the way.

Last week, I shared news of the top faculty award recipients. This week, I would like to focus on the students who have garnered some of our top awards:

- **Kaelynn Hayes** is the recipient of the President's Medal for Leadership, Scholarship, and Service and is one of the Hines Medalists for academic achievement.
- **Regina Atkins** is the recipient of both the 2010 John Moore Award given to the top presidential scholar and the Alan C. Rankin Outstanding Senior Award.
- Other recipients of the Alan C. Rankin Outstanding Senior Award are: **Andrew Beaven; Michael Scott;** and **Paige Williams**.
- The recipients of the Richard G. Landini Outstanding Junior Award are: **Brittany Cuthbertson; Christopher Hauger; Annie Smith;** and **David Walters**.
- In addition to Kaelynn, other Hines medalists are: **Ryan Beard, Erin Braun, Sara Buse, Michael Cook, Eric Gettelfinger, Miranda Helms, Kelsey Luna, Lisa Nepote, Scot Sauers, Karen Wenning** and **Kelli Whitaker**.

Congratulations to these students as well as the many others who were honored at the department and college levels.

Other items I would like to share:

- I would like to extend a welcome to **Stephanie R. Jefferson** who began her duties this week as the new director of the African-American Cultural Center. Stephanie comes to Indiana State from the University of Illinois at Chicago where she served as the assistant dean for recruitment and director of the urban health program. She has a bachelor of arts degree in sociology and a Ph.D. in human and community development from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a master of education degree in early childhood education from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

- Congratulations to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) on receiving a \$1 million endowment from the Bernard Osher Foundation. The endowment will help provide ongoing educational programs for adults throughout the Wabash Valley. The institute now has more than 600 members. **Linda Crossett**, interim director of continuing education, and **Michelle Bennett**, OLLI program administrator, along with the many OLLI volunteers have done a great job developing the program, and it is wonderful that the Osher Foundation has recognized and rewarded their efforts.
- Our student athletes continue to excel in the classroom as well as on the athletic field. Data on the 2003 cohort shows that 63% have graduated. On the field Indiana State senior Kylie Hutson broke the outdoor collegiate record in the women's pole vault when she cleared 14'-9.5" (4.51 meters) on her second attempt during Friday's competition. Fellow senior Erica Moore set a new school record in winning the 400 meters with a blistering time of 52.60, a time that is the seventh fastest in the nation to date.
- An assessment tool designed by **Mark Frederick**, assistant to the vice president of student affairs for research and assessment, and **Will Barratt**, associate professor of educational administration, have received the 2010 Laurel Wreath Award from the North American Interfraternity Conference. The University Learning Outcomes Assessment (UniLOA) is an indicator of student growth, learning and development that examines seven areas of a student's life – critical thinking, self-awareness, communication, diversity, citizenship, membership and leadership, and relationships. Congratulations Mark and Will.
- The Quest Theater Company, founded and run by ISU Theater alumni, has received five Jeff nominations for their production of Evolution – Creation. A Jeff Award is the highest award a theater in Chicago can receive. **Sherry McFadden** and **David Delcolletti** recently attended a performance and noted that the alumni recognized their education at Indiana State and the part it played in helping them succeed in theater.
- Indiana State's Recreational Sports program is being recognized by the American Red Cross of the Wabash Valley for its exceptional programming in aquatics. **Jake Eubank**, our aquatics coordinator, has developed numerous programs including CPR, First Aid, AED, blood-borne pathogen training, lifeguard certifications and learn to swim courses. Congratulations to Jake and the entire Recreational Sports staff for this honor.

In closing, I would like to provide an update on the Leadership Development Task Force. In February, I asked the task force, under the leadership of **Nolan Davis**, to draft a vision and mission statement for ISU's leadership development initiatives. The group met weekly to discuss the purposes, goals, values, and outcomes envisioned for leadership at all levels of the University. The result is a statement that captures the distinctive focus of Indiana State University and provides a root philosophy that will support its varied programs and initiatives. The task force included **Dixie Brown, Denise**

Collins, Gene Crume, Nolan Davis, Wil Downs, Rhonda Impink, Kent Waggoner, Kelly Wilkinson, Priscilla Wolfe, and David Worley.

The vision and mission statement, appended below, will serve as the foundation for a Leadership Consortium to be housed in the Center for Public Service and Community Engagement. This is an initiative of the University's Strategic Plan, Goal 2: Advance Experiential Learning.

ISU Leadership Development Initiatives

Vision

In alliance with the mission of the University, our leadership development initiatives inspire and support leaders who strive for personal growth in order to edify others and benefit our community.

Mission

ISU Leadership Development creates a supportive environment where all members of our community are actively engaged in personal growth to become productive, effective leaders in their roles at ISU and beyond.

We provide a comprehensive set of formal and informal developmental opportunities and support in the form of instruction, training, mentoring, and experiential learning.

We seek to create reflective, authentic leaders who model and support our values of engaged social responsibility, collaboration, an active commitment to diversity, mutual respect for individuality, and a dedication to building a connected community.

The task force is now requesting reaction and response from members of the University community. Please direct your comments to **Carole Brassie** at Carole.Brassie@indstate.edu.

I would also like to remind all faculty and staff interested in learning more about leadership and the operations of the entire University that applications are now being accepted for the 2010-2011 class of **Leadership ISU**. More information and the application form are available at: www.indstate.edu/lisu.

Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley
President