

August 13, 2010

Dear colleagues,

It is only a matter of days until the campus will once again be bustling with students. It is exciting that this year there will be a lot more of them. From all indicators, it appears that the hard work of many over the past several years will begin to pay off in a big way this fall.

Vice President John Beacon, the staff in admissions, financial aid, marketing and communications and the faculty and staff who worked at recruitment events, new student orientation and related activities are to be commended. **Dean Jay Gatrell** and those involved in graduate recruitment should also be recognized. A great deal of effort has been expended to address this top priority, and I want everyone involved to know how much that is appreciated.

This success has also placed a tremendous amount of stress on our residential life staff. **Associate Vice President Jennifer (Boothby) Schriver** and **Director of Residential Life Rex Kendall**, along with the entire residential life team, have worked diligently to maximize our on-campus housing and to arrange for additional housing options off-campus. This is no small task and has required many hours of staff time to communicate with the students involved. **Vice President Carmen Tillery, Associate Dean Al Perone** and others have also aided with this effort. Thank you to everyone who has assisted with this important issue.

Our focus must now turn to retaining these students. I would like to issue a special challenge to all ISU faculty and staff. I would like each of you to become acquainted on a first-name basis with at least two students whom you would not normally meet through your daily work. Imagine the impact if every employee spends some time helping at least two students become acclimated to campus and then stays in touch with them periodically. In the coming weeks, a campaign will be kicked off to remind everyone of this challenge. You will see **“Get to know 2 at ISU”** table tents, flyers and buttons around campus. I hope you will join me in welcoming our new and returning students and providing that personal approach for which Indiana State is known.

The annual welcome back celebration for all faculty and staff will take place on Thursday, August 19, in the Student Recreation Center. The **“Fall Frenzy”** will include a free lunch consisting of a hot dog or veggie dog, chips, bottled water and dessert. The ISU Foundation will be handing out a free giveaway, and there will be door prizes donated by various ISU Offices throughout the 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. event. In addition, the Foundation has provided some great prizes for those who want to play bingo. At noon, there will be a blue and white attire contest with Barnes and Noble gift cards for the top three winners. Immediately following, the vice presidents and ISU Foundation President Gene Crume will join me in leading teams in a “Minute to Win It” competition on the main gym floor. Come and join us for food, fun, prizes and a great chance to mingle with your colleagues to celebrate the start of a great year.

On Friday (August 20), move-in will begin and will continue through Sunday. Distribution of laptop computers to more than 1,300 laptop scholarship recipients will also be taking place. Volunteers to help with these efforts are always welcome. All faculty and staff are also invited to help welcome our new students at the **Opening Convocation** at 6 p.m. Sunday in Hulman Center. Following the ceremony, the students participate in the **March through the Arch** where they are greeted by University officials, faculty and staff members and the Marching Sycamores. **Sycamore Sundae**, an ice cream social with games and activities, caps off the evening. During move-in, faculty and staff who normally park on the west side of campus are asked to park in the City of Terre Haute's Cherry Street Multi-Modal Transportation Facility at the corner of Seventh and Cherry. Parking in the garage during regular business hours will be free with an ISU hangtag. This will open the lots closest to the residence halls for students and their families to unload their vehicles and move into the buildings.

At the same time we are building this supportive environment for our students, a small group of campus and community leaders has been developing a movement to instill pride in ISU in both internal and external audiences. Punctuated by the lighthearted **"Go Trees!"** theme, the program will highlight many of the personal and institutional accomplishments that are worth cheering about at ISU and in Terre Haute.

This new initiative includes a website and social media components and will have a presence at upcoming ISU events and activities. As a starting point, Go Trees! static cling window decals are being distributed to all of those individuals who have signed up for an ISU parking tag. Please join me in proudly displaying this decal and in routinely demonstrating our pride in being Sycamores. For more information, visit <http://GoTrees.net>. There is also a link to on that page to the Go Trees Facebook page. You can become a fan of this Facebook group and post your own comments celebrating where we live, work and learn.

Other updates I would to share:

- The new **Sycamore Express** virtual one-stop shop for students is now live at: <http://www.indstate.edu/express/>. This site offers easy access to the programs and services students use most and highlights important dates and activities. In addition to this virtual presence, the Sycamore Express program includes cross-trained employees in several front-line service centers to provide students with services that they previously would have had to obtain from several different offices. This effort is part of the strategic plan initiatives to improve student success.
- A new emergency loan program has been created to assist students who have a need for short-term financial assistance. Full-time students in good academic standing may be eligible to borrow up to \$500 (in \$50 increments). Loans must be repaid within 30 days. The program is being administered by the Office of Student Financial Aid. Details are available at: <http://www.indstate.edu/finaid/emergency-loan.htm>.

- Nominations for the **University Medallion Award**, the highest award given to Indiana State University staff members, are due **August 30**. Recipients will be selected by a group of peers based upon one or more of the following factors: Dedicated service to the University and its students; involvement in community service and volunteerism outside of the University; professional achievements; and efforts to advance the strategic goals of the University. The nomination form is available on the home page of the human resources website, <http://www.indstate.edu/humres>. Medallion recipients will be honored at the Recognition of Service Program on September 30.

- Applications for **Leadership ISU** are also due August 30. Open to ISU faculty and staff, this year-long program offers participants insight into University operations and management and the opportunity to meet colleagues from across campus. To access the program schedule for 2010-2011, information about the selection process, and the application form, go to www.indstate.edu/lisu.

- Thanks to all of the fans and congratulations to the **Terre Haute Rex** for a fantastic inaugural season. The **Indiana State University Foundation** and its **Sycamore Holdings** indicate that higher than expected ticket and merchandise sales will help this new summer baseball venture turn a profit. The financial gains will help build the ISU Foundation endowment and its support of scholarships and programs at Indiana State.

- Indiana State, along with Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Rose-Hulman, and Ivy Tech, is a sponsor of this year's **Blues at the Crossroads** festival which will take place Friday, September 10, and Saturday, September 11, in downtown Terre Haute. All students, faculty, and staff will be able to purchase their tickets to the event each day at half-price if they show their university ID. For more information about the festival, including the musical line-up, check out <http://bluesatthecrossroads.com>.

- Another great example of community outreach will be realized next week when Cunningham Memorial Library, the Vigo County Public Library, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology migrate to a new **Integrated Library System**. This collaboration will significantly broaden access to library patrons and serves as a model for other communities.

- ISU is hosting a multi-state regional conference, the **2010 Diversity Research and Teaching Symposium**, on November 6. The organizing committee is making a last call for proposals which are due on Sunday (August 15). If you have conducted diversity-related research or have worked to infuse diversity into your curriculum, this might be a good outlet for sharing your ideas and findings. The proposal submission form for this multi-state regional conference can be accessed at: <http://www.indstate.edu/diversity/symposium.htm>. It would be

great if we had a strong turnout from ISU faculty and staff as well as community folks leading sessions and highlighting the good work that is happening here. Registration for the conference is free and can also be completed through the same website.

- **Dr. Michele Boyer**, chair of the Department of Communication Disorders and Counseling, School, and Educational Psychology, is completing a year of service as the chair of the Fellows Committee for the Society of Counseling Psychology, the primary professional organization representing counseling psychology. John Westefeld, president of the organization, notes that this committee is very labor intensive with high visibility and that only the most outstanding counseling psychologists are selected to chair it.

- **Dr. Denise Collins**, associate professor of educational leadership and women's studies and program coordinator of student affairs and higher education, is also contributing to her profession on a national level. She has been named national editor of the Books and Media Board for the American College Personnel Association. She will be responsible for soliciting new manuscript proposals, communicating with potential authors and book editors and managing the proposal and manuscript review process. Congratulations to both Michele and Denise.

- Indiana State's bachelor's degree program in mechanical engineering technology has been granted accreditation by ABET (formerly the Accreditation Board for Engineering Technology). ABET is the internationally recognized accrediting organization for college and university programs in applied science, computing, engineering and technology. The program is housed in the new Department of Applied Engineering and Technology Management which is chaired by **Associate Professor M. Affan Baddar. Dean Brad Sims, Dr. Ming Zhou** and the other faculty on worked on this accreditation process are to be commended.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for the contributions you make to our University. Earlier this month, Indiana State was named one of the "Best in the Midwest" colleges and universities by the Princeton Review for the seventh year in a row. It is the people of ISU who make this happen, and you are also the key to continuing to advance our university. I will spend more time in the coming weeks talking about the strategic plan, the progress we are making and the work we still have to do. It is an exciting time to be at Indiana State.

Good luck with the start of the semester!

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley
President

