

August 20, 2010

Dear colleagues,

The time is here. New and returning students are descending upon campus to move into our residence halls or in some cases, the Candlewood Suites hotel. Area landlords report high occupancy rates as well. It will be a warm and busy weekend as everyone prepares for the start of classes on Wednesday.

As I indicated in my letter last week, our focus must now shift to helping our students succeed. In the two years since I moved to Terre Haute, I have witnessed the warmth of our campus and our employees countless times. Building a friendly, welcoming environment is an important part of helping our students acclimate and a factor that can influence their desire to stay in school when they hit a rough patch. The "Get to Know 2 at ISU" program is designed to help everyone understand that all of us have a role in improving student success. Please accept this challenge by getting to know two ISU students whom you would not have met through your regular daily activities. It is amazing how much difference a friendly smile and greeting can make. Stepping that up to become a personal contact in times when a student needs assistance can be even more powerful. I believe it will make a difference in their lives, and most likely yours as well.

Sunday night is the official opening convocation for new students. Faculty and staff members are encouraged to wear blue and arrive at Hulman Center by 5:40 p.m. It should be a great evening.

As for other opening activities, it was wonderful seeing so many of you at the Fall Frenzy yesterday. While my team did not take first place in the "Minute to Win It" competition, we had a fun time embarrassing ourselves. At least I can take comfort in the fact that we finished ahead of the Provost's team! Congratulations to the members of Vice President John Beacon's team who took home the traveling trophy and spirit sticks. The new Student Recreation Center was a great location for this event, and I want to especially thank David Stowe for overseeing the games and setup. The other members of the planning committee (Kim Cates, Kay Ponsot, Sue Sluyter, John Lentz, Teddy Lenderman, Jennifer Sicking, Roxanne Torrence, Amy Westgard, Jim Herman, Paul Reed and Teresa Exline) are also to be commended along with the Marching Sycamores, the Sparkettes, the Cheerleaders and Sycamore Sam. Marsha Miller did a great job showing her Sycamore spirit by winning the Blue and White competition. If you were not able to attend, Tracy Ford put together a brief video that does a much better job of describing the event than I could ever do. You can access it from the ISU home page or by going to : <http://www.indstate.edu/news/video.php?videoid=626>.

- The African American Cultural Center is planning a number of new events this fall under the leadership of Director Stephanie Jefferson. Ones I would especially like to bring to your attention are:
 - August 23 -- **African American Cultural Center Street Fair** showcasing student organizations, campus departments and community groups along with food and entertainment. 4 to 7 p.m., Eagle Street between 8th and 9th.A

- August 30 – **African-American Cultural Center Open House**, 4 to 7 p.m. (Come and see the recent renovations.)
- September 22 – **Faculty, Staff and Student “Meet and Greet” Catfish Dinner**, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

- **Cheri’s annual lemonade stand** will once again be offering free lemonade and cookies to students, faculty and staff on the first day of classes. The stand will be open from 9 to 11 a.m. on Wednesday in front of Condit House. Take a break and stop by.

- **Elonda Ervin**, director of the ISU Career Center, has been elected President-elect of the Indiana Council for Internships and Cooperative Education. This position also makes Elonda the Indiana State Director to the Midwest Cooperative Education and Internship Association. It is great to see Elonda serving in a leadership role that will assist the University in meeting our goal of increasing internship opportunities for our students.

- Monday, August 30, is the deadline for two important activities. Applications for **Leadership ISU** are due. The application form is available at: <http://www.indstate.edu/lisu/process.htm>. This once-a-month half-day program offers ISU faculty and staff insight into the organization and operations of the University. It is a great way to meet other ISU employees while broadening your knowledge the how the University works.

- Monday is also the deadline to nominate individuals for the **University Medallion**, the highest honor given to ISU staff members. Nomination forms are available on the Human Resources website at: www.indstate.edu/humres. Consider nominating one of your colleagues! The medallions will be awarded at the Recognition of Service Ceremony on September 30.

Thanks to everyone for all of the preparations you have made for the start of the new academic year. It is sure to be a very busy fall. Your work is very much appreciated.

Go Trees!

Daniel J. Bradley
President