

September 3, 2010

Dear colleagues,

This has been a tremendous week for our campus and our community. Our official enrollment numbers confirmed that the headcount goals established for this fall were surpassed in every category – first-time freshmen, graduate students, transfer enrollments and returning students. History has been made with ISU welcoming the largest freshmen class since our founding. This is an important achievement and one which deserves celebration. Thanks to everyone involved.

On Wednesday, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce announced that Terre Haute has been selected as the **2010 Community of the Year**. The nomination for the award cited more than \$1 billion in public and private partnerships which have helped transform this community. Indiana State and the ISU Foundation are proud to have played a role in several of these efforts and are excited about the impact current and future partnerships will have. These efforts include Riverscape, the Rural Health Innovation Collaborative, the joint Barnes and Noble Bookstore and ISU Foundation Offices now under construction, and the conversion of the Federal Building into the new home for the Scott College of Business. It is important that we capitalize on this momentum and continue to elevate Terre Haute and our university. Congratulations to the Chamber and to the entire community on this recognition.

Earlier this week, I was honored to be asked by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius to participate in a news conference in Washington launching a new federal program to help pay health care claims of early retirees. Secretary Sebelius asked me to bring along an early retiree who would benefit from this program, and **Bob Huckabee**, associate professor emeritus of criminology, graciously agreed to do so. Indiana State will receive an estimated \$300,000 to \$500,000 in federal stimulus funds to help cover health insurance claims for eligible early retirees. It was the good work of **Candy Barton** and the **Office of Staff Benefits** that led to Indiana State's inclusion in this program.

It is truly an exciting time to be at Indiana State University and to be a part of the Terre Haute community.

Other items I would like to share:

- Our new students certainly received a warm welcome as they moved into our residence halls, bought textbooks and learned their way around campus. The opening of the semester went very smoothly. I have received numerous compliments about the helpful attitudes of the faculty, staff and students who volunteered with laptop distribution, move-in, the opening convocation and other new student events. I know that many people were involved, and I would like to thank everyone who assisted with this large task. I would especially like to recognize **Joe Thomas** for his role in organizing several of the opening events and thank **Jason Winkle** for inspiring our freshmen with both his comments and his dancing! Thanks to all of you for welcoming our new and returning students in true Sycamore style.
- **Donaghy Day**, a day set aside to introduce new students to ISU's commitment to public service, was another great success this year. **Mayor Duke Bennett, City Councilman**

**Todd Nation** and members of the **Keep Terre Haute Beautiful** committee worked alongside more than 400 students to pick up litter, pull weeds and mulch flower beds throughout the downtown.

- As the semester progresses, I would once again like to challenge each of you to **“Get to Know 2”** ISU students whom you would not have normally met through your regular daily activities. We all have a role to play in helping our students succeed and in creating a supportive environment that connects students to the many resources available to them.
- Several dozen ISU faculty and staff members have been asked to get to know two ISU students in a more formal way. The new **Sycamore Mentor** program matches two 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars with a faculty or staff member. The mentors are asked to make contact with their students and meet with them periodically throughout the semester. The goals of the program include assisting new students in making a successful academic and personal adjustment to ISU and providing them with an opportunity to develop a meaningful connection with faculty and staff members. Cheri and I are both excited to be a part of this program, and we are looking forward to getting to know our students on a personal basis. I would like to express my appreciation to **Jennifer Boothby** for creating this program and to the faculty and staff members who have agreed to serve as mentors. This is a pilot program that will likely be expanded if it helps us meet our goals of improving student retention.
- Another population Jennifer has targeted for special attention is our first-generation college students. Jennifer and **Brian Hasler** have been working with Southern Illinois University on ways our institutions can collaborate on this issue. In addition to developing a program to assist these students, Indiana State and Southern Illinois hope to advance research into the factors that most directly impact student success.
- The sizeable increase in enrollment has also created an increased demand for student employment opportunities from both students seeking employment and departments that hire students. To address this need, one-time funding of \$500,000 has been made available to support the creation of **new** student employee positions during the 2010-2011 academic year. Departments are invited to submit a request for funding to the Career Center. Up to \$2,500 may be requested for each student position. To qualify, please complete the survey available at: [http://indstate.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_79tc3OZhlGRSgqI](http://indstate.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_79tc3OZhlGRSgqI). The deadline is **September 10, 2010**.
- Attracting and retaining great faculty and staff is also a priority of our strategic plan. I would like to thank **Linda Maule** and the members of the **Quality of Life Implementation Team** for their work in welcoming our new employees and helping them acclimate. It was great to meet many of our new faculty and staff members at the welcome reception hosted by the Quality of Life team last night in the Turman Art Gallery. I would also encourage you to stop by the Cortes exhibit currently on display in the gallery which is located in the Fine Arts Building.
- Students and staff looking for parking spaces have some additional options to consider. Parking permits in the Cherry Street Multi-Modal Transportation Facility are now available at the reduced cost of \$15 per month when a yearly permit is purchased or paid for through payroll deduction. Parking for single months will remain at \$30. Parking has also been opened up during business hours in the area where the Driver’s Education course is located in Parking Lot D at Ninth and Eagle Streets and in the Boys and Girls Club lot located across Third Street. This

parking is available from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. It is important to note that cars remaining in these lots beyond these times will be towed.

- In the coming weeks, I will be convening groups to address two important areas. The first will be a task force that will work with an outside assessment team from the **Fraternity & Sorority Coalition Assessment Project** to review our Greek fraternity and sorority systems and develop recommendations to strengthen them. These organizations are a vital part of student engagement and serve as a way to continue those connections as alumni. The assessment project program is a joint effort of the North-American Interfraternity Conference, the National Panhellenic Conference, the Association of Fraternity Advisors, the National Pan-Hellenic Council and the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations.
- The second task force will be looking at the issue of **student media** including the Statesman, WISU and student television production. The field of communications and the communications industry have changed enormously in the past decade, and those changes have a significant impact on our student media outlets. It is an appropriate time to review these programs. I will be working with various constituencies to define the membership of these two task forces. More information will be forthcoming.
- The **Board of Trustees** will be meeting next Thursday, September 9. There will be a seminar on student success initiatives at 1 p.m. with the agenda meeting at 2 p.m. The meetings take place in the State Room of Tirey Hall. One item on the agenda that I would especially like to call to your attention involves establishing a \$50 fine per occurrence for individuals who violate the **university's smoking policy**. I plan to ask the trustees to solicit input from campus on the creation of this fine before moving to a final consideration at their October board meeting.
- Saturday will be the first football game of the year as the Sycamores face St. Joseph's at Memorial Stadium. The Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce has once again sponsored the **Stack the Stadium** promotion that provides discounted tickets to area businesses, and I hope that we will have a big crowd to cheer on the team. The **Terre Haute Tribune-Star** has printed signs that will help the fans root for the team and help celebrate the Community of the Year recognition as **Provost Jack Maynard** joins **Chamber President Rod Henry** on the field during the first timeout. I would like to thank both the Chamber and the Tribune-Star for their roles in advancing our community. The newspaper has an obligation to provide objective coverage of both the good and the bad going on in our society, but it also plays an important role in shaping public opinion and leading progress.
- The kickoff of the football season is also the formal start of the Student Government Association's **Blue Friday** campaign. SGA wants everyone to wear their Sycamore Blue on Fridays in support of all of our athletic programs. **SGA President Steven Flowers** has also partnered with **Judy Conner** in HMSU to sponsor a Home Game Sycamore Sam program. Expect to see 6-foot cardboard cutouts of Sycamore Sam throughout campus each day to call attention to home athletic events.
- Cunningham Memorial Library will host its annual **Library Extravaganza** on Thursday, September 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please encourage your students as well as other faculty

and staff members to attend this great event and learn more about the wonderful resources and services our library provides. The food and prizes are great, too!

- Lastly, I would like to invite all of you to attend my **annual fall address** which will take place at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, September 15, in Tilson Auditorium in Tirey Hall. I will be reporting on progress made toward our strategic goals during the past year as well as priorities for the 2010-2011 year. There will be a university-wide reception afterward in Heritage Lounge and Ballroom.

Have a great holiday weekend.

GO TREES!

Daniel J. Bradley  
President