

November 19, 2010

Dear colleagues,

It has been another busy week for Indiana State University, and I know that all of you are looking forward to a well-deserved Thanksgiving break next week. Cheri and I continue to be thankful for the opportunity to be part of the Indiana State University family, and we hope you have a wonderful holiday with your family and friends.

Collectively, we have much to be thankful for at our University. I was pleased to hear the Higher Learning Commission site team members relay the level of enthusiasm, pride and support expressed by those they met from both on and off campus during their visit this week. Their recommendation that the next general accreditation review occur a full ten years from now is clear evidence of the hard work performed by our faculty and staff. I look forward to receiving the final report from the HLC in ????. Thanks again to everyone who helped with this process.

Accreditation is one way that universities are held accountable for delivering quality educational experiences. On Tuesday night, I spoke about accountability from the national, state and campus levels as part of the Columbia Club Lecture Series in Indianapolis. Several alumni were in attendance, as were several Indianapolis leaders. There is a great level of interest in how institutions are measuring progress as they work to improve student retention and graduation.

That interest was also very evident in the state universities' budget presentations to the Indiana Budget Committee which were conducted in Indianapolis on Wednesday and Thursday. Indiana State's hearing took place yesterday. The legislators indicated they believe our university is on the right path but emphasized the need to improve our retention and graduation rates. Please continue your efforts to help our students succeed. This was the second hearing in a fairly lengthy process, and it is clear that the state still has budgetary challenges. I will update you as more information becomes available.

Alumni events were also conducted in Chicago and Merrillville this past week, the latter being an event for both alumni and prospective students and their parents. Both events went very well, and I appreciate the growing level of engagement that our alumni have with their alma mater.

Other items I would like to share:

- The Indiana State University United Way campaign currently stands at \$44,401 based on 180 pledges for an average gift of \$246. We have quite a way to go to meet last year's total of \$56,823 and 306 donors. The United Way touches many lives and provides support for services focusing in three priority areas: education, income and health. The pledge form is available at: [http://www.indstate.edu/unitedway/pledge\\_form.pdf](http://www.indstate.edu/unitedway/pledge_form.pdf).
- ISU's Sustainability Committee needs your assistance in assessing the concern for environmental issues on our campus. Please take a few minutes of your time to complete the survey at: [https://indstate.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_2sEtQjanmoAj14w](https://indstate.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_2sEtQjanmoAj14w).

- The University's efforts to beautify our campus were enhanced this week with a generous donation of 20 mature trees, many of them Sycamores, from Bruce Patrick, the owner and operator of Hatari Nursery in Paris. The trees are between 18 and 20 feet tall and will provide instant shade and canopy around the Quad and at the north end of Seventh Street. I would like to thank Bruce for helping ISU further its beautification efforts as a Tree Campus USA and recognize Stephanie Krull, ISU's grounds manager, for her leadership in organizing this donation.
  
- Several members of the ISU family have been recognized recently, including:
  - Indiana State alumna Julie Sigmund, a teacher at College Park Elementary in Indianapolis, is one of four Indiana teachers who were named finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. She will be honored at a luncheon in Indianapolis in January.
  - Jim Speer, associate professor of Earth and Environmental Systems, is one of six educators to be elected as a SENCER Leadership Fellow by the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement. SENCER (Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities) is a faculty development and science education reform initiative designed to engage students in science and math by focusing coursework on real-world problems through project-based learning and community engagement. Jim's work is part of our strategic goals to enhance community engagement and experiential learning.
  - John McNichols, ISU's men's cross country coach, has received his seventh Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year Award in recognition of the his team's second straight Missouri Valley Conference Championship and their fifth in the last seven years. Congratulations to these three Sycamores!
  
- The annual "Take Back the Night" rally has been moved indoors. The rally, organized each year by Linda Maule's Women's Studies 450 class on student activism, focuses on ending gender-based violence. The event will take place at 6 p.m. on November 30 in Dede I with an information fair preceding it from 5 to 6 p.m. Donations of personal hygiene items for the Council on Domestic Abuse (CODA) will also be collected at the rally or can be dropped off in the mezzanine of Rhoads Hall. The class is also selling t-shirts and sweatshirts to support CODA. Please consider supporting our students' efforts for this worthwhile cause.

Have a great weekend and a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley  
President