

March 3, 2011

Dear colleagues,

It was great to receive official word from the Higher Learning Commission this week that our university has been re-accredited for the maximum 10-year period. Your efforts in strengthening our students' experiences through an array of experiential learning and community engagement opportunities were among several accomplishments praised by the evaluation team.

I would like to thank Jack Maynard and Virgil Sheets for leading the NCA Steering Committee, Nancy Rogers and Susan Powers for co-chairing the self-study process, Ed Kinley for serving as the liaison to the Higher Learning Commission, Bob Guell for his assistance in compiling the report and the many, many others who helped with this multi-year process.

I also want to acknowledge that the report and its evaluation by the Higher Learning Commission's North Central Association reflect 10 years of hard work on the part of many to advance ISU. Improving what we do takes a continuing effort involving critical analysis of the many factors involved in teaching, research, student success and the administrative operations which lubricate the entire organization. Change is indeed an ongoing certainty. We are doing a great job of accommodating the environment that exists today while preparing to be successful in the future.

The report also noted the University's emphasis on student success and the work underway as part of "The Pathway to Success" strategic plan. Continuing our efforts to improve retention and graduation rates while providing our students with a challenging and distinctive education is critical to our institution's future. The level of state funding Indiana State will receive **will be** directly tied to our ability to improve student success. Helping students meet their educational goals while providing them with the skills and knowledge necessary to become productive citizens is our primary mission.

Advocacy efforts continue on the state level despite the recent turmoil in the Statehouse. This week, I met with Commissioner of Higher Education Teresa Lubbers and Commission Chair Mike Smith to discuss performance-based funding and ways to advance the state's goals. Next Thursday, I will be presenting our budget request to the Senate Finance Committee. This is another step in a rather complicated biennial budget process which is getting closer to completion. I will keep the campus posted as the process crystallizes but it will literally be late April before we are likely to know our appropriation for the next two years.

If you are interested in hearing more specific details about the implementation of the strategic plan, I encourage you to plan to attend all or part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Strategic Planning Stakeholders Conference on March 31 in Heritage Ballroom. Dr. Sam Cargile, vice president for grantmaking at the Lumina Foundation, will be the keynote speaker.

As many head out for Spring Break, a large contingent of Sycamores will be heading to St. Louis to cheer on the men's basketball team in the Missouri Valley Conference tournament. The team enters the tournament as the third seed, the highest ranking since 2000. The Sycamores will face Evansville at 9:35 p.m. Friday night.

In conjunction with the tournament, ISU alumnus, former Olympian and World Champion Kurt Thomas will be inducted into the Missouri Valley Conference Hall of Fame. Kurt and his wife operate the Kurt Thomas Gymnastics Training Center in Frisco, Texas.

The women's MVC tournament will take place over Spring Break in St. Charles, Missouri. The schedule will be determined once the regular season games have been completed this weekend.

I look forward to rooting both the men's and women's teams to victory.

Other updates I would like to share:

- Last week's Scholar Collaboration Day was a great success with a diverse group of highly talented prospective faculty visiting campus. The informative program put together for the scholars along with the overwhelming welcome the visitors received from all parts of campus and the community produced very positive feedback. I hope this unique program will aid our efforts in diversifying our faculty. Josh Powers, Mary Ferguson, Sheila Johnson, Monique Mosley, and Tami Weinzapfel-Smith worked with department chairs, deans and others to make this first-time effort successful. It is my hope that several of the participants will be new faculty members next fall and campus leaders in the years to come.
- Congratulations to the men's track and field team for capturing their first indoor track and field Missouri Valley Conference Championship. Coach John McNichols added his first indoor MVC Coach of the Year accolade to his long list of honors including the 2010 Cross Country Coach of the Year award he received in the fall. Junior Major Clay defended his high jump title and was named the Most Outstanding Male Field Athlete. Other conference titles went to the 4x400 meter relay team made up of freshmen Keenan Johnson, Brad Adams and Max Tuttle and junior Andrew Stull; and junior Ernest Rollins who won his first triple jump title with the ninth best distance in ISU history.
- The Student Government Association is gearing up the nomination process for the student member of the ISU Board of Trustees. Matthew Huckleby has been an outstanding student trustee and will complete his two-year term this summer. The SGA is responsible for selecting a group of students to nominate for the role. The nominations are provided to the Governor's Office, and the Governor makes the appointment following interviews with the finalists. Please encourage your top students to consider applying for this unique opportunity. They should contact the SGA Office for more information.

- For the eighth year in a row, Indiana State University students will be spending their spring break helping others. This year, groups will go to three different locations – working with the Katrina Kids organization in New Orleans, assisting with Gulf Coast restoration in Pensacola, Florida, and helping to build a park in Haysai, Virginia. Watch the Center for Community Engagement’s website for information on how to follow the students’ tweets as they report on their experiences.
- The 2011 Class of Presidential Scholars has been selected out of the largest pool of qualified applicants in the program’s history. This year, 749 admitted students met the criteria for the award compared to 453 in 2010. A total of 147 students came to campus to interview for one of the 20 prestigious awards. The group of students offered the scholarships is also the most diverse to date. This program has produced some of our most outstanding campus leaders and young alumni. Cheri and I have really enjoyed getting to know the current scholars and look forward to meeting the incoming class.
- The Alumni Association is encouraging everyone to show your blue by purchasing an Indiana State University license plate. Proceeds support Alumni Association programs and scholarships. For more information, contact the Alumni Association at [alumni@indstatefoundation.org](mailto:alumni@indstatefoundation.org).
- March is Disability Awareness Month and ISU and other organizations in the Wabash Valley’s Disability Awareness Work Group (DAWG) are once again sponsoring numerous programs. Tonight from 5 to 7:30 p.m. in Cunningham Memorial Library, ARC of Indiana will host a roundtable discussion on what people can do in light of the funding cuts hitting agencies that assist people with disabilities. On March 16, Chad Crittenden, an amputee who participated as a contestant on the “Survivor Vanuatu” show, will speak on “Acknowledging Diverse Minds, Bodies and Spirits.” The speech will take place at 2 p.m. in the Oakley Auditorium at Ivy Tech. Other events planned include a Cultivating Inclusion Tree Planting, the Indiana Special Olympics men’s basketball tournament which will take place on our campus March 26 and 27, a special after school story time at the Vigo County Public Library, the WILL Center’s annual Low Vision Expo and a Disability Awareness Through Experience program pairing local leaders with persons with disabilities to participate in various day-to-day activities.
- International Women’s Day was marked with an array of programs this week exploring how women are facing adversity and overcoming it. Women's Studies, Interdisciplinary Programs, the Economics Department, the Social Work Department, the English Department, the Joseph S. Schick Foundation, and the ISU library collaborated in putting together a stellar two-day program. I was able to attend the keynote lecture which I found both informative and thought provoking.
- It is not too late to participate in the Unbounded Possibilities Virtual Engagement Week. Today’s topic deals with wealth and workplace issues and Friday will focus on science and technology. This virtual program provides an online mechanism for individuals to

share ideas and voice opinions. For more information, go to the Unbounded Possibilities website at [www.indstate.edu/academicaffairs/aa/up.htm](http://www.indstate.edu/academicaffairs/aa/up.htm).

Have a great Spring Break!

GO TREES!

Daniel J. Bradley  
President