

August 17, 2011

Dear colleagues,

Greetings! I would like to welcome everyone (“old hands” and new employees) to the start of another academic year. While Indiana State is blessed with a beautiful campus and wonderful facilities, it is the people of ISU who make it such a special place. I am looking forward to working with you in serving our students and our community. It looks to be an exciting year with another large incoming class of students.

This is a very important time for Indiana State. We are approaching the midway point of the 2014 “Pathway to Success” strategic plan. I have deeply appreciated the hard work performed by literally hundreds of faculty and staff members in developing and implementing this plan. Measurable progress is being made, but it is now “crunch time.” It is critically important that all of us remain focused on what it will take to successfully meet our goals.

Ensuring our students’ success remains the top priority, and I know many of you spend a great deal of time getting to know our students and helping them as they transition to college. Helping our students succeed is part of everyone’s job at Indiana State. Last fall, the members of the campus community were challenged to connect with two students whom one would not normally meet through one’s daily work. The **“Get to Know 2”** Program will continue this year, and I would encourage you to reach out to students and let them know you are a resource if they need assistance or just need someone to talk to outside of their own professors and advisor. If everyone on campus were able to assist two students, think of the impact it could have.

The Office of Communications and Marketing is looking for stories about the students you have come to know through the Get to Know 2 program. You can share your story by sending it to ISU-Communications@indstate.edu. More information on the program is available at www.indstate.edu/get2know2.

This year, a special emphasis needs to be placed on enhancing our students’ experiential learning opportunities. Our student employment program offers a good opportunity for learning. In addition to helping them financially, these positions can provide meaningful work experiences that will help prepare them for the professional world and many times can have a positive impact in the classroom.

Again this year, a pool of \$500,000 in additional student wage funds has been established to assist departments in paying salaries of students who are given the opportunity to increase their professional skills via a Para-Professional Development Program. To qualify for the funds, departments must ensure that these student positions go beyond the normal clerical functions of traditional student employment positions. They should be intentionally designed to offer opportunities for professional growth. The Office of Student Employment is developing a Student Assistant Professional Development Evaluation to provide guidance in creating positions that will qualify. For more information on how your department might participate, contact Elonda Ervin at elonda.ervin@indstate.edu.

This is always an exciting time, and I hope you will join Cheri and me in kicking off the new academic year at these fun events that start tomorrow:

- On Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the **Sycamore Carnival Welcome Back Event** for all faculty and staff will take place at the Student Recreation Center. I will be hosting a “Pathway to Success” Cornhole game, and the Vice Presidents have each planned a special activity for their booths. The Deans will be hosting Bingo. Participants will receive tickets for door prize drawings for a range of prizes including an iPad, a parking garage/all surface lot parking permit, Barnes and Noble gift cards, ISU Sycamore football tickets, season tickets to the Performing Arts Series, sweatshirts, t-shirts and a host of other ISU items. Sodexo will be serving carnival food items, and our local Pepsi supplier will provide soft drinks. Thanks to the Deans, the ISU Foundation, Barnes and Noble and the other campus entities that have provided door prizes, and to the Student Recreation Center staff and planning committee that has put this event together.
- The Carnival will also help kick off a special partnership ISU has entered with the **Ryves Neighborhood Association**. The Center for Community Engagement will be collecting items for the Ryves Preschool during the Carnival. Items needed include: crayons, glue, glitter, scissors, pencils, markers, first-aid kits, construction paper, handi-wipes, blocks, and Menards and Walmart giftcards to use for larger items. Anyone donating items will receive an extra ticket for the door prize drawings. Please help ISU help others begin the school year with the supplies they need.
- Volunteers are needed for the **Parent Tent** during move-in weekend Friday through Sunday. The Parent and Family Initiative of the strategic plan is hosting an information tent outside HMSU to answer questions and give directions and support to parents as they move their students into the residence halls. Faculty and staff who would like to volunteer for a two-hour shift on Friday, Saturday or Sunday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. should contact Paula Meyer at paula.meyer@indstate.edu.
- Faculty and staff members are also encouraged to attend the **opening convocation** for our new students on Sunday. Participants should plan on arriving at Hulman Center no later than 4:40 p.m. to be seated before the program starts. Parking is available in the parking garage at Cherry and Seventh streets. This official welcome to our new freshmen and transfer students will end around 6 p.m. and will be followed by the traditional “March Through the Arch” program at Oakley Place on the corner of Third and Cherry Streets. This event is always a lot of fun, and I hope to see a lot of faculty and staff present to welcome our new students.
- On the first day of classes (Wednesday, August 24), Cheri will be hosting her annual Lemonade Stand offering free lemonade and cookies to our students, faculty and staff. She would love to have you stop by the stand located on the quad from 9 to 11 a.m.

Other items I would like to share:

- The Indiana Commission for Higher Education approved ISU’s request to begin offering a Master of Social Work degree as part of our continued emphasis on addressing the shortage of health care workers. The 60-credit hour program is expected to begin in fall 2012. Congratulations to Peggy Weber and her colleagues in the College of Nursing, Health and Human Services on this accomplishment.
- I am very pleased to announce that Alberta Comer and Jay Gatrell have agreed to co-chair the Campus United Way Campaign this year. They will be building on the great work of Bruce and Connie McLaren and their energetic committee in the past few years. The United Way agencies in our community provide a wide range of services that impact a tremendous number of people. I hope that you will

consider making a donation, no matter how small, to this year's campaign. More details will be forthcoming.

- Congratulations to Nancy Cobb Lippens for receiving the 2011 Edwin Fissinger Choral Composition Prize from North Dakota State University for her work, *When Music Sounds*. The choral composition will be premiered by the North Dakota State Concert Choir on October 2.
- The Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association has awarded accreditation to the Psy.D. program in Clinical Psychology, a status the doctoral program has earned for more than 25 years. Congratulations to Virgil Sheets and his colleagues in the Department of Psychology.
- Nominations are being accepted for the 2011 University Medallion. This award recognizes exempt and non-exempt staff members who have demonstrated exceptional service and dedication to the university. Criteria include involvement in community service and volunteerism outside of the University, professional achievements, and efforts to help advance the strategic goals of the University. Nominations should be submitted to Human Resources no later than Wednesday, August 24. The medallions will be presented during the Recognition of Service Ceremony on Monday, September 19. Nomination forms can be accessed at: <http://www.indstate.edu/humres/docs/UnivMedallionNomForm.pdf>.
- Mohamed Elyassini is the recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship to teach a geography course and conduct research at the United Arab Emirates University this academic year. He is one of about 1,100 U.S. grant recipients who will travel internationally as part of the prestigious academic exchange program.
- For the fifth year in a row, a grant received by ISU's Sodexo Dining Services from the Sodexo Foundation is helping feed the hungry in the Wabash Valley. The \$20,000 grant, together with goods provided by vendor partners, is providing food to Terre Haute's Feeding America affiliate, Catholic Charities, for distribution to its 15 local feeding centers. Over the five-year period, the Sodexo Foundation has donated \$100,000 to this effort.
- ISU needs to comply with new regulations regarding the verification of individuals' employment eligibility and identity. Departments employing student workers will need to E-Verify student workers who are starting a new position or who have never worked for ISU, including graduate assistants. Students will generally need to have an original copy of their social security card. It is important to understand that federal law requires that this information be entered into E-Verify within three business days of the first work day entered on the Form I-9. The Office of Student Employment is offering workshops to explain the E-Verify procedures on August 25 from 10 to 11 a.m. and from 3 to 4 p.m. in Dede II. For more information, please contact Elonda Ervin at Elonda.ervin@indstate.edu.
- Leadership ISU, a program designed to provide leadership development and education about the breadth and nature of Indiana State University, is accepting applications for the 2011-2012 class. Both nominations and self-nominations are welcome. All University personnel are eligible to participate in the program. This is a great opportunity to build leadership skills, develop a greater understanding of the university and how it works and meet colleagues from throughout campus. The deadline for applications is August 29, 2011. The application form is available at: <http://www.indstate.edu/lisu/documents.htm>. The Leadership ISU site also offers more specific information about the year-long program, which is a collaborative effort between Indiana State University, the ISU Foundation and Leadership Wabash Valley. Please consider applying. Contact Renae Kirby with any questions or to submit nominations at 812-514-8515 or rkirby@indstatefoundation.org.
- An article about ISU alumnus Wanda Ramey written for the Spring 2010 issue of the ISU Magazine by Indianapolis free-lance writer Julie Slaymaker has earned a first-place award in the Women's Press Club of Indiana 2011 Communications Contest. Wanda Ramey, a 1945 graduate, was a broadcasting

pioneer who became the first women news anchor in the western United States when she served as co-anchor of San Francisco's Noon News in 1959.

- Two Indiana State Foundation staff members have been named to leadership positions with the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). Karen O'Rourke has been named to the board of directors of CASE District V, which covers Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. Kim Bloch, has been named to the CASE-Indiana Board. CASE serves professionals in the field of educational advancement and is one of the largest international associations of educational institutions.
- The ISU Foundation is sponsoring a contest to name the new sculpture that will be placed on the outdoor plaza in front of the building the Foundation shares with Barnes and Noble at Fifth and Cherry streets. Constructed of stainless steel, white painted metal and thousands of cobalt blue glass marbles, the wave-like sculpture forms the shape of a sycamore leaf. To learn more about the artwork and to enter your suggested name, go to www.indstatefoundation.org. The winning entry will be announced on September 30.
- The Sycamore football team had a great season last year. If you have an opportunity, come to the Blue and White game at noon on Saturday to cheer them on to a great 2011 season.

Best wishes to everyone for a healthy and productive year. Thank you for all that you do for Indiana State and our students.

With warm regards,

Daniel J. Bradley
President