

December 19, 2011

Dear colleagues,

Following an exciting Commencement weekend, I wanted to provide a few more updates before the University shuts down for Winter Recess later this week.

Thanks to everyone who participated in Saturday's Commencement ceremony. I found both our student speaker and our alumni speaker to be quite inspiring. I especially appreciated Dean Hirsch's challenge to our graduates to "strive for something beyond success. I want you to strive for significance in your life."

Together, our faculty, staff and students are already making progress toward the "significance" Dean referenced. Halfway through this fiscal year, ISU students, faculty and staff have collected and donated 5,985 pounds of food compared to 5,451 for the entire 12 months the previous year. United Way contributions, and the number of contributors, are up. Service projects keep growing, and the impact is being felt. Our partnership with the Ryves Neighborhood Association has led to a brighter holiday season for many through your donations of money and gifts.

Benchmark measurements developed as part of the University's strategic plan indicate that the ISU community gave 25,219 hours of service to the greater Wabash Valley during the past year. That is the equivalent of nearly 13 full-time people working year-round or 672 people working one week each to help others. Organizations and individuals throughout our community have been impacted by your service.

For year two of the strategic plan, the Center for Community Engagement estimates that ISU volunteerism and philanthropy contributed an estimated \$794,000 to the Greater Wabash Valley. Even with the limited data available, it is clear that ISU and its people are making a difference.

Work continues on how the performance of our institution and its units will be measured. As a public institution, Indiana State must be accountable for its performance and must clearly demonstrate how our students, faculty, staff and alumni contribute to our community, state and world.

Dashboards for each department, college and the University as a whole have been distributed to the Deans and Department Chairs for review. Similar documents are being developed for administrative offices.

On the state level, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education has issued its revised formula for performance-based funding for the 2013-2015 biennium. A copy can be downloaded at www.indstate.edu/president/docs/performancefundingdec2011.pdf. We are currently conducting an analysis of these metrics to understand what they mean to Indiana State and to identify areas where we can improve.

Other items I would like to share:

- Congratulations to the men's basketball team for a huge win over Vanderbilt in Nashville on Saturday. Going into the game, Vanderbilt was ranked 25th in the nation. Sophomore R.J. Mahurin was named the Missouri Valley Conference Player of the Week, and the Sycamores received their first vote in the Associated Press Top 25 poll since 2005. The men's team has a difficult schedule with the second-highest RPI in the conference and the 15th most difficult in the nation. GO TREES!
- On Friday, the Board of Trustees approved construction of the University's first new residence hall in more than 40 years. The infill housing project will provide 352 beds with construction scheduled to begin next summer. The new residence hall will replace housing that will be lost when Lincoln Quad is renovated as the renovated facilities provide semi-private bathrooms resulting in fewer beds per building. The new hall is expected to house some of ISU's Greek organizations that are currently housed in Lincoln.
- Kudos to the Indiana State University Holiday Choir that has been touring the campus and the community. The choir visited my office this morning and gave an outstanding performance of holiday music. Thanks for spreading holiday cheer!
- Shakir Bell and Ben Obaseki are the first ISU football players in our history to be named to the Associated Press All-America First Team announced Thursday. Shakir had already earned First Team All-American honors from the American Football Coaches Association, and he was the Missouri Valley Football Conference Offensive Player of the Year. He is also one of three finalists for the Walter Payton Award. The ISU sophomore led the nation in rushing with 1,670 total yards, a new school record. He also broke the single-game rushing records with 256 yards and four touchdowns against Youngstown State. Along with Shakir, Ben Obaseki was named to the First Team All-Missouri-Valley Football Conference team. His 22 tackles against Western Illinois are the most in conference history by a defensive lineman. Congratulations to these fine athletes and to Coach Trent Miles and his coaching staff.
- Brad Balch has been appointed to a three-year term of the Board of Directors of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. The board is responsible for approving the budget and setting policy for the organization which has more than 800 member institutions representing public and private colleges and universities throughout the United State.
- The American School and University Magazine has recognized the renovation of Pickerl Hall as an outstanding design for 2011. Congratulations to all involved.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley
President