

June 19, 2012

Dear colleagues,

Summer is already a third over, new student orientation is going strong, and Sycamores are catching Olympic fever.

This summer is filled with some important work in two overarching areas – strategic planning and college affordability.

Goal chairs for “The Pathway to Success” strategic plan are convening their committees to review the original benchmark measurements to determine if adjustments should be made, and to develop benchmarks out to 2017. Our long-term goals remain constant, but the annual benchmarks are an important tool in determining if our strategies are advancing the university toward our goals. With a more robust data collection system now in place, it will now be possible to develop meaningful benchmarks against which progress can be measured. At this spring’s Stakeholders Conference, Trustee Mike Alley challenged the University to extend the plan out an additional three years to ensure the progress continues. Both of these steps are an important part of keeping the plan dynamic. At the same time, initiative chairs are in the process of doing work plans and budgets for the coming year.

On the affordability front, task forces will be finalized next week to further study recommendations related to college textbooks, curriculum, and academic structure and department size. Their work will be shared with campus at the end of the summer. An additional task force focusing on the new University College also will begin its work this summer.

The summer season also brings the filling of several important positions across campus. An experienced business professor and administrator, **Brien N. Smith**, has been named the new dean of the Scott College of Business. Brien is currently a professor of management and associate dean of the Miller College of Business at Ball State University. **Josh Powers**, currently special assistant to the provost for academic initiatives and professor of educational leadership, has been named interim associate vice president for student success, effective July 1. **Greg Goode**, currently chief of staff at Bastyr University, will return to ISU in mid-July to become executive director of government relations. A dean of the new University College is expected to be announced next week. **Crystal Baker**, current interim director of Financial Aid, has been named director, and **Kris Rogers**, associate director of admissions, has been named director of marketing. I wish all of these administrators (and all of our other new employees) great success and look forward to welcoming those who will be new to campus.

New student orientation is going well with higher participation levels than in previous years. More than 400 freshmen have already signed up for the **Sycamore Graduation Guarantee**, our new program which promises to cover the tuition costs for any required course if a student has upheld his/her responsibilities but is unable to graduate in four years. Entering freshmen have the entire academic year to sign up, and the early response rate may indicate a high level of interest in the program.

With the Summer Olympics just around the corner, Indiana State has a lot of “Olympic” news to report.

Earlier this month, ISU once again hosted the **Special Olympics Indiana Summer Games**. This year’s event drew a record 2,638 athletes representing 68 delegations to our campus and our community. The highlight of the weekend was the Opening Ceremonies where athletes, coaches, families and volunteers fill Hulman Center to officially kick off the games. ISU Police Chief **Bill Mercier**, who is also Special Olympics Indiana’s Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, ran the Flame of Home to meet Special Olympics Indiana’s Athlete of the Year, light the caldron and officially open the games. Several ISU departments help make the Summer Olympics a success including **Public Safety, the Center for Community Engagement, Residential Life, Sodexo, Recreational Sports, the Office of Information Technology, Sycamore Athletics, Hulman Center, Hulman Memorial Student Union,** and the **ISU Steel Drum Ensemble**. I would also like to thank the many faculty, staff and students who served as volunteers during the weekend and recognize **Bill Mercier**, who coordinated the annual Torch Run; **John Lentz**, ISU liaison to Special Olympics Indiana; and **Paula Meyer**, for her work with Opening Ceremonies and public relations.

Evan Austin, a business major from Terre Haute, has been named to the United States Swim Team for the **2012 Paralympic Games** to take place August 29 through September 9 in London. Evan, a graduate of Terre Haute South, won four gold medals, set 11 American records and collected 13 personal best times at the trials over the weekend in North Dakota. Good luck in London, Evan!

This year’s **Summer Olympics** will also take place in London, and ISU has one current student athlete and three alumni who are hoping for a spot on the U.S. Olympic Track and Field team. ISU Junior **Felisha Johnson** will compete in the women’s shot put. She currently ranks 16th on the USA Track and Field performance list. ISU alumni **Jordan Fife, Kylie Hutson,** and **Erica Moore** are also slated to compete in the trials which start Thursday in Eugene, Oregon. Jordan, currently ranked 10th on the performance list, is a provisional qualifier in the men’s 3,000 meter steeplechase. Kylie, a Terre Haute North High School graduate, ranks fifth in the nation in pole vaulting and is an automatic qualifier for the trials with her 14-foot-10-inch performance at the USATF Indoor championships. Sullivan native Erica Moore, who competed at Indiana State from 2007 through 2010, is an automatic qualifier for the trials with her personal best time of 1:59.97 in the women’s 800 meters for a third-place finish at the IAAF World Indoor Championships. Good luck to these current and former Sycamores in their quest for Olympic Gold!

Another current student athletic, **Greggmar Swift**, will be competing for a spot on the Barbados Olympic Team later this month in the 110 meter hurdles. He is currently ranked third among Barbados hurdlers.

Felisha and Greggmar are among five Sycamores who recently earned All-American status at the 2012 NCAA Division I Outdoor Track and Field Championships. Felisha garnered a first-team All-American award in the women’s shot put and honorable mention All-American status in the discus. Greggmar earned second-team All-American honors in the 110 meter hurdles. The other students who earned this recognition are **Brandon Pounds**, first-team honors with a throw of 212-feet-1-inch for a sixth place finish in the men’s hammer throw; **Mary Theisen**, Honorable Mention All-American status with a 20th

place finish in the shot put; and **Stacia Weatherford**, Honorable Mention All-American recognition for her 19th place finish in the women's 400 meter hurdles with a time of 59.17.

Other updates I would like to share:

- Earlier this month I approved an increase in the ISU student employee minimum wage which will be \$7.75 effective August 11. This adjusted rate allows us to remain competitive with hourly pay rates being offered by community agencies and employers who hire students. It also supports our commitment to help maintain affordability. In the coming weeks, the Career Center and the Payroll Office will be sending more detailed information related to this wage increase.
- To further enhance the student employment experience at ISU, the Career Center will be offering two new training sessions. Beginning later this month, a supervisor training session will be offered to all staff who oversee on- and off-campus student employees. Workshop topics will include payroll, timeliness of student referral forms, e-verify, a new student assistant training session, recommendations for supervision and guidance of student employees, and updated processes and procedures related to the Applicant Tracking System.
- In September, the Career Center will launch an online student assistant workshop which will emphasize workplace expectations such as attendance, appropriate attire, and customer service, as well as how students can make the most of their work experiences. This will provide our student employees throughout campus with consistent training regarding important basic skills and behaviors that will help them exceed far beyond their ISU experience.
- **ISU's football team** hosted a blood drive today at Memorial Stadium. Participants had an opportunity to meet the team and donate blood alongside them. Tours of the stadium facilities also were provided. The drive will help the Indiana Blood Center increase its blood donations during the challenging summer months.
- The **women's and men's cross country teams** have received the **NCAA Public Recognition Award** for being in the top 10 percent of teams in their sport for their multi-year Academic Progress Rates from 2007 through 2011.
- Volunteers are being sought to help represent ISU at **Indiana Black Expo's Summer Celebration** in Indianapolis July 20-22. This will be an opportunity for the university to connect with prospective students and alumni, and to highlight the programs and opportunities that enrich the experience of our students. The planning committee is looking for dedicated, enthusiastic representatives from departments, colleges, and organizations to be present during Expo weekend. Interested volunteers will be required to attend one training/information session prior to the weekend. If you are interested in helping, please complete the questionnaire at https://indstate.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_3egMyDBcM0DZ5ys. If you have questions about the event, contact **Regina Atkins** in the Office of Admissions at regina.atkins@indstate.edu or 812-237-4967.

- The **National Girls Collaborative Project** has designated Indiana State as its lead organization in the state to promote STEM-related careers to women. ISU will help organize conferences, events and other outreach programs to teach young women about opportunities in math, science and technology-related fields. ISU will also oversee the administration of \$10,000 in mini-grants for programs in Indiana that serve girls. **Bev Bitzegaio** is the leader of the Indiana collaborative. Congratulations to Bev and the other members of the collaborative's leadership team.
- On Friday, July 20, the **ISU Alumni Association** is hosting **Indiana State University Day in the Wabash Valley** with a golf outing and an evening at the Terre Haute REX game. The golf outing will take place at Idle Creek Golf Course and will begin at noon with registration and lunch. The \$65 registration fee includes golf, lunch, two drink tickets and admission to the REX game. Families are invited to join the golfers for an alumni, friends and family gathering beginning at 5:30 p.m. on the Terre Haute REX deck at Sycamore Stadium. The REX will take on the Quincy Gems at 7 p.m. To register, go to: <http://indstatealumni.wufoo.com/forms/q7x3a1/>.
- I enjoyed participating in the **United Way's Day of Action** on Friday along with **Nancy Rogers** and others from around campus. More than 350 volunteers worked at 29 Wabash Valley locations, one of the largest volunteer days the United Way has had in years.
- If you missed the Day of Action, you may want to consider going on the next ISU-sponsored trip to **Henryville**, Indiana, to help with tornado cleanup. The ISU team will leave Friday, July 13, at 7 a.m. and return Saturday, July 14, at about 8 p.m. Accommodations include housing and food. Volunteers need to provide their own sleeping bags, eye protection and work boots and make sure their tetanus shots are up to date. If you are interested in more information, contact the Center for Community Engagement at 237-2334. You can sign up at: <http://www.indstate.edu/publicservice/events/southernIN.aspx>. There are many ways to become involved in community engagement, and I hope you will utilize your Community Service Leave to take advantage of these opportunities.
- ISU senior **Clint Hill**, a professional aviation flight technology and aviation management major from Columbus, has earned a \$2,000 national scholarship from the Regional Airline Association. Clint is one of only three student pilots in the nation to receive the scholarship this year.

Enjoy what's left of the summer!

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley
President