

February 20, 2009

Dear colleagues,

Although our country and our university face many challenges during this time of economic uncertainty, I continue to take heart in the good work that is going on throughout our campus. We have much to celebrate and in which to take pride.

I have worked to convey that to our state's leaders as we have made various budget presentations that are part of the biennial budget process. While the state's budget challenges are daunting, there is general recognition of the value public higher education provides although the legislators are quick to mention concerns about accountability and rising tuition costs. There are many more steps in the process, and our advocacy efforts will be ongoing. In the meantime, I know that planning is taking place across campus to address the budget shortfalls that might occur if the proposed cuts become a reality. Our next budget presentation will take place with the Senate Appropriations Committee on March 16. Our campus budget hearings will occur the following week on March 19 and 20. Notices regarding the campus hearings will be sent via global email.

On a related note, the university is also actively pursuing funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, also known as the federal stimulus package. A list of projects (www1.indstate.edu/president/stimulusprojects.pdf) has been distributed to state and federal officials, and efforts to ensure ISU receives full consideration for any eligible funding continue.

Since my last letter, the university has received two significant forms of recognition. For the third year in a row, Indiana State has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The many students, faculty and staff who contribute to our community service and engagement efforts are to be commended.

Indiana State is also one of only two universities in Indiana to be designated as a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. This recognizes our ongoing efforts to plant trees throughout the campus, engage students in Arbor Day celebrations and promote environmental stewardship. Indiana University—Bloomington was the other campus selected for this honor. Congratulations to our hard-working landscaping team for achieving this recognition.

Other items I would like to share:

Promotion and Tenure – I would like to extend congratulations to the following individuals who will be recommended to the Board of Trustees next week for promotion and tenure. Those being recommended for promotion to full professor are: Brad Balch, educational leadership, administration and foundations; Michael Chambers, political science; Kurt Fowler, music; Brian Kilp, music; Qihao Weng, geography, geology, and anthropology; and Margaret Whitaker, educational leadership, administration and foundations. Those being recommended for promotion to associate professor and to receive tenure are: Ronald Allen, aviation technology; Kathryn Bauserman, elementary, early, and special education; Christopher Berchild, theater; Kimberley Bodey, recreation and sport management; Denise Collins, educational leadership, administration and foundations; Brendan Corcoran, English; Bassou El Mansour, technology management; Richard Fitch, chemistry and physics; Rusty Gonser, biology; Kandace Hinton, educational leadership, administration and foundations; and William Mitchell, biology. I hope you will join me in recognizing these individuals for achieving these career milestones.

College Goal Sunday – Several ISU employees donated last Sunday afternoon to helping prospective college students with financial aid issues and paperwork. I would like to thank Pat Garvin, Darla Grigg, Janis Coopridger, Walter Gordan, Donna Ring and Kim Donat for volunteering to assist these students during College Goal Sunday at Ivy Tech’s Wabash Valley campus. They joined other personnel from our sister institutions in providing this important service to students throughout the Wabash Valley.

Retention Council – The newly formed Retention Council will soon begin meeting, and I am pleased that Bob English has agreed to serve as its chair. This group will be working to implement changes in the University’s operations, policies and procedures to improve student success while maintaining quality standards. Serving on the council are: Jennifer Boothby, Bruce McLaren, Susan Powers, John Ozmun, Jeff McNabb, Alberta Comer, Linda Maule, Salatha Willis, Mary Ellen Linn, Nolan Davis, Domenic Nepote, Mark Edwards and Roxanne Torrence. The Student Government Association and Faculty Senate have also been given the opportunity to have representatives if they choose to do so. I appreciate the willingness of these individuals to serve, and I look forward to advancing our efforts in this area.

American Humanics Management/Leadership Institute – A contingent of 37 ISU undergraduate and graduate students, led by Assistant Professor Nathan Schaumleffel, attended the 2009 American Humanics Management/Leadership Institute last month in Indianapolis. The institute serves as the capstone educational experience for students earning the American Humanics certification in non-profit leadership and management. ISU had the largest group among all 80 American Humanics campus affiliates.

Scholarship Selections – More than 170 talented high school students accepted invitations to visit campus and compete for the university’s most prestigious scholarships during the past few weeks. There will be 20 President’s Scholars chosen and another 80 will receive the University Honors Scholarship. The Networks Scholarship and the Rural Health Scholarship were also part of the scholarship interview weekends, and the Gongaware Scholar interview process will take place this Saturday. I would like to thank the many alumni, faculty, staff and student leaders who assist with this important process. I am looking forward to seeing these new scholars on campus this fall.

Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley
President