

October 31, 2008

Dear colleagues,

Cheri and I had a wonderful time at all of the Homecoming events last week. I was pleased to see so many traditions including the Distinguished Alumni Awards Program, the Trike Race, the amazing parade put on by our student leaders, and so many other great activities. There certainly was an abundance of events for everyone.

I was also pleased to experience Tent City for the first time. I know that many of you were working at the tents greeting our alumni, students and parents, and I want you to know that your efforts are appreciated. Our first Homecoming at Indiana State proved to be a very special experience, and through the efforts of many students, faculty, staff and alumni, this event continues to be a huge success. Congratulations!

While Homecoming was a great opportunity to meet and interact with many members of the ISU family, Cheri and I are also continuing to travel the state to attend various alumni functions, meet with legislators and share news of the campus and your achievements. Most recently, we were in Jasper, and it is quite obvious that Indiana State has a large group of supportive alumni in that community. Next week, we will be visiting Columbus, Indiana, for an alumni reception and a tour of the Cummins plant where many of our graduates work.

I would also like to share the following updates with you:

NATIONAL HONOR – I am tremendously pleased to report that Indiana State University Honors Student Analyssa Noe has been named the National Honor Student of the Year by the National Collegiate Honors Council. Noe, a legal studies and women's studies major, was selected from 25 nominees from across the nation. She received this prestigious honor at the organization's annual convention in San Antonio, Texas last week. A senior from Wetmore, Kansas, Noe works in our Center for Public Service and Community Engagement and has been tremendously involved in a variety of community engagement initiatives including Alternative Spring Break and Take Back the Night. Analyssa can also be seen in one of the new television commercials produced by our Communications and Marketing area. Congratulations to Analyssa!

STUDENT ATHLETE GRADUATION RATES – Indiana State University student-athletes fared quite well in a report on graduation rates recently released by the NCAA. Our men's basketball team was one of only 27 schools in the nation to achieve a perfect 100 percent graduation rate. Other ISU teams who graduated 100 percent of their student-athletes were the men's and women's tennis teams, women's soccer and softball. The Sycamore football program topped the Missouri Valley Football Conference with an 80 percent graduation rate. Overall, the Indiana State athletic program had an 89 percent graduation rate, well above the national average of 79 percent.

STRATEGIC PLANNING – We have selected a consulting firm to assist with our strategic planning efforts and are planning a retreat the afternoon of December 2 to kick off this effort and integrate it into our NCA/Higher Learning Commission accreditation process. The retreat will include a campus-wide plenary session to which everyone is invited. I hope that as many of you as possible will become engaged in the process. We plan to build upon our previous planning efforts to develop a robust strategic plan that will

help guide us in advancing the institution. Please watch the global and portal announcements for further details.

INSTALLATION – Once again, I would like to encourage our students, faculty and staff to participate in the various events planned as part of our tribute to ISU’s commitment to community engagement in conjunction with my formal installation. I hope to see you at John Dau’s presentation at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 10. His story of leading “The Lost Boys of Sudan” to safety, coming to the United States and assimilating into our society, pursuing education and then concentrating his efforts on helping those back in Sudan is one that I know will move you in many ways. Please also consider supporting the Jam the Bus canned food drive for Catholic Charities, which is running critically low on food supplies, and the Council on Domestic Abuse with financial donations or personal hygiene items. Of course, I also hope that you will attend the installation ceremony. We really want this week to be a campus and community celebration of the tremendous ways Indiana State University supports our community. More information is available at: www1.indstate.edu/president/installation.html.

UNITED WAY – Our United Way campaign is gaining steam with 276 pledges received so far for a total of \$43,671. That puts us at 58 percent of our goal of \$75,000. As you can see, there is more work to be done. Please consider making a pledge for whatever amount you can. In addition, the higher education community of the Wabash Valley is combining forces to host a cornhole tournament to benefit the United Way. Each school will have its own tournament with the winners advancing to a combined College Cornhole Tournament. ISU’s tourney will take place in Wolf Field at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, November 5. The entry fee is \$20 per two-person team. I hope to see a lot of students, faculty and staff demonstrating their cornhole expertise! More info is available on our ISU United Way site at www1.indstate.edu/unitedway/.

Thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of Indiana State University. If you have any good news items, thoughts or ideas you would like to share with me, please send them to president@indstate.edu.

Sincerely,
Daniel J. Bradley
President