

Dear colleagues,

It has been a busy few weeks since my last update. I am pleased to have completed the search for Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. **Michael Licari**, currently the interim provost and executive vice president at the University of Northern Iowa, will begin his duties on July 1. Mike brings a great deal of experience to this role and received significant support from all stakeholder groups in the selection process. He is well-suited to lead the academic community in achieving our strategic goals.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to Jack Maynard who agreed to step back into the provost role this past year while we conducted this national search. Jack has been a great colleague and has positioned us well for a new provost.

The search for vice president for student affairs is nearing completion. I anticipate having an announcement within the next week.

On Thursday, I made my last budget presentation of the 2015-2017 biennial budget process. This one was to the Senate Appropriations Committee. **Senator Luke Kenley** chairs this committee, and he shared some kind remarks about our enrollment growth and efforts to serve a diverse student body with a high percentage of low-income and first-generation students. The budget process will be completed by the end of April, and I will continue to share details as they unfold. At all of the hearings, a high level of interest in degree attainment was evident. It is clear that we must continue to make progress in this area.

The **Strategic Plan Report-out Sessions** have taken place for goals 2, 3 and 4. Goal 1 chairs and initiative chairs will be reporting on their progress March 25 and 26, and Goals 5 and 6 will do the same on the afternoon of March 30. It has been great to hear about the good work many are doing to advance these goals. The process to “institutionalize” some of the efforts has started with the assignment of responsibility within certain units and base funding provided as needed. This process will continue as we assess on-going work and value added by the initiatives and/or programs. The Unbounded Possibilities Program is now 3 ½ years into a five-year cycle which warrants some serious conversations about where these programs are headed, whether they should remain separate entities or be folded into similar areas, how they can be sustained, etc. In addition, Provost Maynard and I have asked the **Bayh College of Education** to develop an Unbounded Possibilities proposal to provide scholarships and support to 10 incoming students each year. The program will be similar to the Networks Scholars. I look forward to reviewing the final proposal with the Provost.

This year's **Strategic Planning Conference** will take place at 11:30 a.m. on April 9 in Dede I. It will kick off with a luncheon followed by sessions on improving first-semester retention and increasing the effectiveness of the career center. I will provide an overview of our progress to date and some information on our plans for the next two years. Alumnus **Brian Burton** will close the program with a keynote address from 3:15 to 3:45 p.m. Brian, currently vice president and chief operating officer of the Indiana Manufacturers Association, will bring an interesting perspective. I hope to see a great turnout for these important discussions.

One experiment the University will be conducting on the first-semester retention issue will involve measuring the impact that lowering the number of students a University College advisor serves would have on retention rates. To test this issue, four additional advisers will be hired for University College and two matched groups of 500 students will be studied. One group will receive the same level of services as currently offered while the second group will have advisors who have half the number of advisees, providing more time for interaction with each student. I look forward to seeing the results.

The diversity climate study work is progressing with our consultant **Gerda Govine** having completed more than 180 interviews of students, faculty, staff, alumni, community leaders and others. Her latest monthly report is available at:

https://cms.indstate.edu/sites/default/files/media/Documents/PDF/Govine%20February%202015%20report_0.pdf.

The **Diversity Task Force and Diversity Council** representatives are also working with Gerda to determine best practices at other institutions, benchmark dashboards for our diversity-related goals, and other recommendations. A report on all of these activities is due to me at the end of April.

This week also included a meeting of my **National Advisory Board** in Indianapolis. In addition to providing these alumni and friends of Indiana State with an update on the budget process and recent news items, the agenda included presentations by **Nancy Rogers, Heather Miklozek, Daniel Pigg** and **Darby Scism** on the work being done in the **Center for Community Engagement**, the **Business Engagement Center** and the **Career Center**. They also heard an update on our **Sesquicentennial celebration plans**.

Other items I would like to share:

- Indiana State University's **Petra Nyendick** and **Robyn Lugar** are among this year's Wabash Valley Women of Influence honorees. A breakfast will be held 7:30 a.m. April 9 at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College's Jeanne Knoerle Sports and Recreation Center. Petra is the director of the Community School of Arts, and Robyn is an associate professor in the department of social work. The mission of the Women of Influence, sponsored by the United Way of the Wabash Valley, is to identify and recognize the area's top female leaders who have made a difference, blazed new trails and are leaving a mark on their community. These women have something to offer the next generation of female leaders. Congratulations, Petra and Robyn!
- **John Conant** has been appointed as the faculty representative on the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. John began his term, which will run through June 30, 2017, this week. I know that John will bring both intelligence and thoughtfulness to this important role.
- **Tina Kruger** is the inaugural recipient of the Rising Star Junior Faculty Honor from the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education. The assistant professor of applied health sciences in the College of Nursing, Health, and Human Services was recognized during the association's annual meeting last month. The award recognizes new faculty whose teaching and/or leadership stands out as impactful and innovative.
- **Todd Whitaker** has received a major award from the National Association of Secondary School Principals for his distinguished service to American education. The award recognizes Todd for his significant contributions through ongoing research, presentations, and publications for the education community. Todd has authored 24 books and is a national authority on staff motivation, teacher leadership, and principal effectiveness.
- Political activist and author **Star Parker** will speak at 7 p.m. March 25 in Tilson Auditorium as part of the University Speakers Series. She is the founder and president of CURE, the Center for Urban Renewal and Education. CURE is a non-profit think tank which promotes market-based public policy to fight poverty. Speakers Series events are free and open to the public.
- **Staff Council** elections for representatives have been finalized. Returning representatives include: **Debbie Jeffries, Patti Bolton, and Karen Aue**. New members include **Jayme Payne, Edy Fitch, Glenn Herring, Paula Price, Susan Crist, Laura David, Ian Loomis, and Crystal Cox**. Congratulations on your election and thank you for your service to the university. I would also like to thank the supervisors across campus who make accommodations so that these

individuals can be an important part of our governance system. The council will elect officers later this semester.

- Indiana State University will host the **Women Rock Conference** on Saturday, March 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in HMSU Dede I. The conference is designed to educate, inspire and empower women students. The event is free to students from Indiana State, Ivy Tech, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, and Rose-Hulman. The conference will include keynote speakers and breakout sessions featuring local women covering topics such as communication, healthy relationships, stress relief, financial literacy, civility, sexual violence, body image, self-confidence, and balance. Breakfast, lunch, snacks and t-shirts will be provided to participants. Please encourage your students to attend. They may register at:
https://indstate.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_4Tq4QA3YaxQPc4I. The planning committee is also seeking sponsorships. If your department is interested in supporting this event, please contact **Aimee Janssen-Robinson** at aimee.janssen-robinson@indstate.edu.
- The **Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice** is collecting items for the “Home is Where You Are” program, an organization that helps young children who have been removed from their homes due to their parents or guardians being arrested for the manufacturing of methamphetamine. Donations for infants through children age 10 of new pajamas, socks, underwear, toiletry items, sippy cups, diapers, baby wipes, pacifiers, coloring books, crayons, toys, and backpacks can be dropped off at the Criminology Office in Holmstedt Hall 210.
- The **Scott College of Business** is accepting applications for its Outstanding Young Alumni Award (0-10 years post-graduation) and Outstanding Alumni Award (more than 10 years post-graduation). The deadline for submissions is March 16. Awardees will be recognized during the College’s 50th Anniversary Celebration on April 10. More information is available at:
<http://www.indstate.edu/business/scott50/>.
- Congratulations to the men’s and women’s track teams for winning the **Missouri Valley Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships**! This was the third consecutive MVC title for the men and the second in a row for the women. **Coaches John McNichols and Angie Martin** also picked up Coach of the Year honors. Hurdler **Adarius Washington** was named the meet’s most outstanding athlete and will compete in the NCAA Nationals.
- Our **Student Recreation Center** has been named one of the top collegiate rec centers in the country by College Raptor, a website that provides comparisons between colleges. ISU’s center came in at number 11 on the list, just ahead of Purdue’s.
- The **Indiana Wildlife Federation** has awarded our campus its **Level 3 Conservation Champion Certification** for our sustainable landscaping practices. Indiana State is only the second university in Indiana to be officially certified for our efforts to follow sustainable lawn maintenance and landscaping practices, reduce pesticides and herbicides, eradicate invasive species, utilize native plant species, and conserve, retain and recycle water. Congratulations to **Stephanie Krull** and her amazing landscaping and grounds crew. Like the rest of us, I am sure they are glad to see the recent increase in temperature.

Have a great spring break! Cheri and I are heading to St. Charles for the women’s tournament. Go Sycamores!

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley
President