Dear Campus Community,

Earlier this week, the State of Indiana and Indiana University lost two great leaders and friends. Myles Brand and Mel Simon achieved success on much different career paths, but the impact of their journeys will remain forever. Interestingly, life’s journey for both men started in the same borough of New York City, in Brooklyn 15 years apart, and ended on the same Wednesday in Indianapolis.

Myles Brand served as the 16th president of Indiana University and held that position from 1994 to 2002. Although most media reports and national coverage of his passing bring the termination of Bob Knight to the forefront, those who worked with him and saw the commitment he had for education and IU, know the impact and lasting legacy of his leadership.

Most notably for IU Kokomo, it was under Brand’s presidency that the campus was able to secure funding and build Hunt Hall, the campus science building which opened in 2001. He was a frequent visitor to Kokomo and a strong supporter of the regional campuses.

University-wide, it was Myles’ vision that has placed IU as a leader in higher education technology. He brought our current president, Michael McRobbie, to the university and provided him with the platform to move the university forward. Who knows? Maybe Brand also knew he was bringing a future president to the table.

During his eight years as president, as noted in a university release,

Brand led IU through a period of remarkable growth, including record enrollments and national leadership in information technology and the life sciences, leaving a legacy impacting many Hoosiers beyond the university’s eight campuses.

Under his leadership, IU established the nation’s first School of Informatics, doubled research grants and contracts, and received the largest single private gift in the university's history, a $105 million grant from the Lilly Endowment to fund the Indiana Genomics Initiative (INGEN). Two other important gifts that came to IU during his tenure were $23 million from Ed Kelley for the Kelley School of Business, and $40.6 million from Barbara and David Jacobs for the Jacobs School of Music.

Never shy of challenges, after leaving IU Myles Brand became president of the NCAA, and the first university president to serve in that capacity. The NCAA has many critics and those who question its power and financial standing, but Brand used the stage to implement key changes and was committed to academic reform and advocacy of intercollegiate athletics. He started to turn the ship and I hope the effort continues.

Myles Brand was also a strong supporter of the arts. In 1995, shortly after our new campus art gallery was completed, it was Myles Brand who fulfilled IU’s commitment to support a university-wide faculty art exhibition. I recall this vividly because my work was included in the exhibition. Myles remained a strong supporter of the arts as well as a strong proponent of women’s studies, both areas central to the work of his wife and IU faculty member Peg Brand.
As president of IU, leader of the NCAA, a fellow educator, a colleague, and someone who served this campus well, Myles Brand will be missed.

I also want to offer a few words on Mel Simon and his impact on IU. The financial wealth he achieved ranked him among the richest people in the world, including a spot on *Forbes* “List of Billionaires.” He and his family were true philanthropists and generous in gifts to Indiana University – Simon Hall and the Bess Meshulam Simon Music Library and Recital Hall in Bloomington, the Simon Family Tower at Riley Hospital for Children, and the Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center in Indianapolis.

As we lose citizens of prominence, reflecting on their lives can offer us a deeper appreciation for their gifts of leadership, service, generosity, and vision. Very few obtain the level of prominence of Myles Brand or Mel Simon, but we can all make a difference in the lives of others. As Indiana University faculty and staff, we have the special opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our students, colleagues, and community. This commitment and the work we share in making a difference in the life of our community represents a lasting tribute to the contributions and memory of Myles Brand and Mel Simon.

Best Regards,

Stuart M. Green
Interim Chancellor