

Fall 2008 Convocation Speech

Welcome faculty and staff to the annual fall convocation. Let me also welcome Tim Sehr to his new role as interim Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance CFO/CIO. Tim will be continuing in this role until June 30th 2009, as we initiate a new search to fill this important position. You have already met Steve Sarratore, our interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. I am grateful to both of these highly capable individuals for their willingness to take on the difficult work of these positions. Please join me in welcoming them.

This is an occasion to meet new friends and renew acquaintances with old ones. It is also an opportunity to focus on the opportunities and challenges for the coming year.

Perhaps the greatest challenge that surfaced during the past

year was the persistent question of who we are and what do we stand for. To illustrate this point I offer the following vision not of what we are or what we hope to be, but what we are **not** (show five minute university).

In the past 36 years I believe I have come to know what faculty and staff truly value and how we see ourselves. We are:

-First and foremost a teaching and learning institution. This is our central mission. We care about our students' success.

-A regional institution serving the educational and cultural and economic goals of mid north central Indiana.

-Primarily a baccalaureate institution with a growing post baccalaureate mission.

-A campus committed to research especially research in the public good.

-An institution of high touch and high tech.

- We are a campus that cares deeply about inclusiveness and diversity.

All of these are reflected in our mission, vision, and commitment statements.

Our strategic plan and strategic action plans will continue to be the campus' guideposts for realizing our aspirations. In the coming year we will focus our attention to these key goals and objectives in the strategic plan. You will find the strategic plan and action plans at

<http://www.iuk.edu/~kochncl/StrategicPlan.shtml>

Most especially we will focus on student success, enrollment, and graduation rates.

I am delighted to report that several of the Strategic Plan's target goals have already been met and work continues on many others. I would like to highlight a few of our accomplishments.

- We have added the following new programs:

- B.A. Fine Arts
- B.S. Informatics
- B.S. Early Childhood
- B.S. Secondary Education
- M.P.M. SPEA
- M.S. Education

This year we will be presenting a proposal for a new masters of science in nursing degree to the IU Board of Trustees and Indiana Commission for Higher Education

-We have developed the Pathways program to align 60 hours of IVY tech programs with our BA and BS programs.

-We have implemented the recommendations of the student orientation task force and implemented the new student convocation that you will be attending this afternoon.

-We continue to improve the freshman year curriculum, establishing learning communities in most majors while continuing to assess their effectiveness.

-We have increased student life participation and have one of IUs most robust American Democracy Project programs.

-We have begun to address policies on withdrawal, probation and dismissal and repeat courses.

-We have enhanced student internship opportunities across all campus programs.

-We have increased the return rate of stop outs through Project Complete and other unit based initiatives.

-We have expanded Accelerated Evening College opportunities to serve our returning adult population.

-We have completed an AACRAO consultation and created new approaches to campus decision making.

-We have completed a NACADA consultation and will be reviewing the report's recommendations for implementation.

- The proposed Health and Wellness Center is included in IUs capital appropriations proposal for this biennium.

- We have established a campus wide Diversity Council and submitted our first diversity plan and report.

-We have established a campus wide research center for faculty and students.

We continue to have significant challenges and will use the Strategic Plan and Strategic Action plans to guide and inform the decisions we make about resource allocation and the work we do in the coming year. In order to meet these challenges we need the involvement and leadership of all faculty and staff. These are not administrative challenges they are campus challenges. Your talents and energy on key committees and in the ongoing work you do everyday are critical to our success. It is important that the campus attend to the well being of its faculty and staff. To this end I have asked Tim Sehr, Jerre Fercho and Gerry Stroman to prepare a plan to bring faculty compensation at 85% minimum of the mean to similar institutions based on CUPA data. In addition, I have asked Jerre to review compensation levels of professional and bi-weekly staff related to market minimum. This campus will

endeavor to express appreciation in a tangible way within our budgetary constraints to our talented and hardworking colleagues.

I have also asked Tim to reconvene a campus wide facilities utilization task force to develop both short term and long range plans to enhance the teaching learning environment of the campus per Strategic Priority III.

As you entered Kresge auditorium you received an envelope if you haven't opened it already please open it now. Inside you will find two red tickets; these tickets are your entrée to my undivided attention. I expect to hear from you—to hear your ideas about what we should be doing differently to improve our campus. There are only two, so make them count. Don't lose

them but you can trade them if you think someone has a better idea than you do.

I want to thank everyone in attendance today who has worked so hard to help us achieve our enrollment this fall. These are hard times for our students and your extra effort and attention to their needs is sincerely appreciated. I also want to thank Nancy Land, Kathy Coppola and Ruby Hendricks for helping us organize this convocation. We all owe a debt of thanks to Charlie and Carl and their respective staffs for their work this summer on numerous physical plant and IT projects.

In a moment Dr. Sue Sciame Gisecke our accreditation team leader will address you. The campus faces no more important objective than achieving a new ten year accreditation from HLC/NCA. We are counting on each and every one of you to

support our efforts and those of the entire accreditation team.

It is my honor to introduce Sue.