

FROM THE JOURNEY
GOOD TO GREAT

The newsletter is designed to help faculty, staff, and students understand important information for our accreditation visit in April, 2009. Please let me know if you have questions or concerns. The self study process has helped us move the institution from being Good to becoming Great!

-Sue Sciame-Giesecke
Dean, School of Arts and Sciences
sgieseck@iuk.edu 455-9258

WHAT FACULTY & STAFF SHOULD KNOW

- Some Institutional History
- Strategic Priorities
- Statements of Commitment
- Vision Statement
- Mission Statement

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW

- Some Institutional History
- Awareness of the Statements of Commitment
- Awareness of the Vision and Mission Statements

A BRIEF HISTORY OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY KOKOMO

Did you know that higher education has a long history in Kokomo? Indiana State Normal School of Kokomo, founded in the early 1860s, was the first college to be located in Kokomo. It was followed by the short-lived Howard College, which opened in 1869, but closed in 1872. Kokomo Junior College was founded in 1932, by John and George Beauchamp, with the goal of helping Depression era students find a more affordable education. The onset of World War Two helped fuel the demise of that college, because potential students were funneled away from their studies to fight. Ironically, as a result of the war, Congress enacted the G.I. Bill, which would help spur the growth of Indiana University's Kokomo Extension Center, which would eventually become Indiana University at Kokomo and finally, Indiana University Kokomo.

Indiana University Kokomo's first leader was Virgil Hunt, who was named executive secretary of the Kokomo Extension Center in 1945. During Hunt's tenure, enrollment grew from 118 students in his first semester as director, to 700 students when he left 11 years later to become dean of Indiana University's Indianapolis campus. Hunt was instrumental in the center's acquisition of new facilities, including the Seiberling mansion in 1946 and the Elliott House, in 1952. These were the institution's main buildings until the campus was moved to its present location in 1965. That move was overseen by Victor Bogle, who led the institution for more than 20 years, from 1959 to 1980. Dr. Bogle's tenure at the campus was marked by increased enrollments, an expanding curriculum, the addition of Purdue programs at the Kokomo campus, the construction of the Main and East buildings on campus, and a new name: Indiana University at Kokomo. After the institution's accreditation as a degree granting entity in 1969, the school's first associate and bachelor's degrees were awarded in 1970. After Bogle retired from his post as chancellor in 1980 to return to the classroom, Hugh Thompson succeeded him as the campus's second chancellor.

Dr. Thompson's term as chancellor of Indiana University Kokomo was marked by growth. In addition to continuing the growth in student enrollment, the size of the campus was expanded, new buildings were constructed,

and new degree programs were added. It was during Dr. Thompson's watch that the Kelley Student Center and observatory were constructed, 14 new Indiana University and six new Purdue degree programs were added to the curriculum, and the campus grew by more than 25 acres. Dr. Thompson also spearheaded fundraising efforts that resulted in an endowed teaching excellence award and endowed scholarship programs. After Thompson left the Kokomo campus for Washburn University, Emita Hill was named Indiana University Kokomo's third chancellor in 1991.

It was during Dr. Hill's tenure at Indiana University Kokomo that the new library building, which includes the Kresge Auditorium and art gallery, was completed. In addition to the library, Hill also focused on expanding the campus's computer and network capabilities, enhancing educational opportunities for needy, minority and at-risk students by developing programs and funding scholarships to help make it possible for them to attend college. Dr. Hill also helped bring nationally recognized speakers to campus through the "Enhancing Minority Attainment Conference, helped craft exchange agreements with universities in Tai Wan, Japan, Thailand and Korea, expanded the university's outreach activities and encouraged more partnerships with local businesses. After Hill's retirement in 1999, Dr. Ruth Person was named chancellor of Indiana University Kokomo. During Person's tenure at IU Kokomo, the institution reversed a seven-year enrollment decline and recruited a record number of full-time and traditional-age students. Person also oversaw the introduction of new academic programs, including several new bachelor's degrees and new master's degrees in Liberal Studies, Education and Public Management, and the construction of Hunt Hall, the science building on campus, named in honor the school's first director, Virgil Hunt and his wife, Elizabeth.

After Dr. Person left Kokomo to take a position in Michigan, Indiana University Kokomo Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Stuart Green was named interim chancellor in 2008. Chancellor Green, who has been with the university since 1972, will be overseeing the accreditation process at Indiana University Kokomo and working to secure our next building, the Health and Wellness Building.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Indiana University Kokomo, a regional campus of Indiana University, is to enhance the educational and professional attainment of the residents of north central Indiana by providing a wide range of bachelor's degrees, and a limited number of masters and associate degrees. Indiana University Kokomo is further dedicated to enhancing research, creative work, and other scholarly activity; promoting diversity, and strengthening the economic and cultural vitality of the region and the state through a variety of partnerships and programs.

VISION STATEMENT

Indiana University Kokomo aspires to become a regional institution of first choice recognized for providing critical opportunities for student success; acknowledged as a primary and engaged community resource; and valued as a campus where there are faculty, students, and professional staff active in research, creative work, and other scholarly activity.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY KOKOMO STATEMENT OF COMMITMENTS

Indiana University Kokomo contributes to its students and to the region through the affirmation of the following values in all of its endeavors:

COMMITMENT TO STUDENT LEARNING

The campus community provides a learner-centered environment grounded in the liberal arts and sciences and linked to the professional schools. We are committed to open and free inquiry, high quality instruction and academic support services, experiences that foster students' development, opportunities for experiential learning, and the enhancement of skills in the areas of civic engagement, diversity, and global awareness and involvement.

COMMITMENT TO REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

The campus community works with regional partners, including other educational institutions, to enhance the vitality of the region by promoting community engagement opportunities as a key campus strategy and by valuing service as a core component of faculty, student, and staff responsibilities and experiences.

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

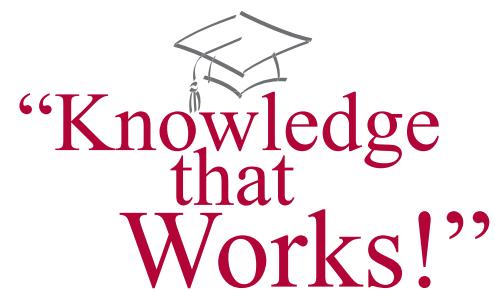
The campus community demonstrates its commitment to diversity by providing a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment that promotes integrity and respect among all members of the campus community and by valuing shared governance and open, civil discourse.

COMMITMENT TO INNOVATION

As a community of learners, the campus embraces innovation and creativity in its pursuit of best practices in teaching and learning, student development, institutional stewardship, and scholarly activity.

COMMITMENT TO ASSESSMENT

The campus community embraces a culture of assessment, actively seeking evidence for improving current practices while providing an atmosphere in which new initiatives can develop as the campus strives for excellence in all of its work.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

I. INCREASE ANNUAL FALL ENROLLMENT TO 3,010 BY 2011

Educating students is the core responsibility of Indiana University Kokomo. To ensure the campus maximizes this effort, a comprehensive enrollment management plan will be established with annual goals for undergraduate, graduate, and special students.

2. IMPROVE BACHELOR DEGREE GRADUATION RATES

Indiana University Kokomo will develop a retention plan to improve the graduation rate of undergraduate students. While the current rate of 25.4 percent is on par with the other IU regional campuses, it is below the campus goal of 30 percent.

3. ENRICH THE CAMPUS LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The region is best served when the degree programs offered by Indiana University Kokomo meet the educational needs of our residents. It is also important those programs be taught in the best learning environment possible, which includes the addition of a Health Education Center.

4. ESTABLISH MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL PARTNERSHIPS WITHIN THE SERVICE AREA

As the only public four-year institution of higher learning in our service area, Indiana University Kokomo offers unique resources to the region. IU Kokomo will seek and establish mutually beneficial relationships with business, government, non-profit and fellow educational institutions.

5. PROMOTE CAMPUS DIVERSITY TO PREPARE OUR GRADUATES

Indiana University Kokomo will develop and implement strategies to increase the diversity of our faculty, staff, and student body. Additionally, it is our obligation to prepare students to live in a diverse and multi-cultural world.

6. ENHANCE THE VISIBILITY OF THE CAMPUS

The impact of Indiana University Kokomo upon our service area and the State of Indiana is historic and far-reaching. A strategic and integrated plan to communicate this impact to all stakeholders will be developed and implemented.

7. ENHANCE THE ROLE OF CAMPUS SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVE WORK

As 80 percent of Indiana University Kokomo faculty hold terminal degrees in their field of study, continuance of their expertise and professional development is rooted in research, writing, and presentations. Resources and infrastructure will be developed to pursue these opportunities in alignment with regional needs.

