

Spring Convocation 2005

This morning we are gathered to celebrate the years of service of our faculty and staff – all 33 individuals who have given many years of their time and talents to educate the citizens of North Central Indiana.

At the same time, we are here to recognize events and issues that are larger than our campus.

This week IU is celebrating its involvement in the life sciences, and here at IU Kokomo we acknowledge our part in that endeavor.

For the last ten or more years, the campus has focused a significant amount of attention on science and science education –

-- developing plans for a major addition to the campus in the form of a

science building

-- securing funding from the legislature for such a building

-- constructing the building

- adding academic programs related especially to the health sciences

- and finally, raising a significant amount of dollars to fund science equipment and education now and into the future.

Our job now is to determine future directions not only for our efforts in the sciences, but also in other academic areas. One of our challenges is to begin enhancing our students' awareness of the global society in which we all live and work. We will need to expand our horizons beyond the traditional definitions of diversity to a much greater knowledge of the world we live in and how it affects what we do. For that reason, we have invited a speaker today to address global change.

We will be addressing these and other questions through our Strategic Planning process.

As you know, we have completed Phase I, data collection. I expect our consultant's report to arrive today. Each member of the Strategic Planning

Committee will receive a copy, and we will place a copy in the library so that all members of the campus community will have access to the data.

The committee has met and divided into two groups for our first assignment – review of our mission statement and of our vision and values statements.

Then we will work on goals and action steps, hoping to have a campus-wide review by summer.

I am personally looking forward to this process and its outcomes because I believe it will lead us toward an even brighter future.