Fall Convocation
2006

Welcome to our annual fall convocation and to the 61st year that IU Kokomo has been serving the North Central Indiana region.

We have had a very busy summer and we should take a moment to thank to everyone for jobs well done.

First, we accomplished a significant number of facilities upgrades – many more than usual. These included adding technology to five classrooms, renovating four, and adding a technology classroom to the library/Information commons.

We resurfaced parking lots, and installed carpet and tile in Nursing and Continuing Studies. Our huge energy savings project, which included installing new chillers in the library, adding window film to buildings, and reworking campus lighting, was completed.

The Cabinet and I spent a significant amount of time in two retreats to plan future facilities directions.

At the end of the summer, three important events that required a great deal of employee time, energy, and talent took place. These

included our participation in the Day at the State Fair, Senator Evan Bayh's job fair held on our campus, and last Saturday's enormously successful first new Student Convocation.

The way these entire events came together demonstrates to us how well we can work as a team when we commit to a task that has meaning for us individually and collectively, and for our campus. So my thanks to all the members of Team IU Kokomo for such success.

Now, let's consider the year ahead. As I outline some of the tasks at hand, think about how you would want to be a part of some of them.

First, we will be implementing our strategic plan. We will shortly be creating seven teams to create action steps around each Strategic priority.

Second, we will be organizing the campus community to prepare for our accreditation visit in 2008-2009.

Third, we will be implementing new degrees such as Early Childhood Education and Informatics, and planning for others such as Secondary Education and Public Management

Fourth, we will be implementing Phase III of our Information Commons.

Fifth, we will be implementing major R&R work in the East Building and the second floor of the Main.

Sixth, we will be continuing and expanding our great work in community engagement in many areas including a focus on building a community climate of entrepreneurship.

Seventh, we will be continuing our work in assessment and continuous improvement.

Eighth, we will be implementing new marketing plans that will spotlight our new degree programs.

Ninth, we will continue to upgrade campus technology in line with IU's strategic priorities.

Tenth, we will be implementing the integrated image plan developed over the last several years for all IU campuses.

The tasks I have outlined are huge, but we can be successful at them if we all work together.

Today, we've asked our colleague Tony Proudfoot to visit with us to start us off on implementing Task Ten: Integrated Image.