IUPUI Campus Welcome Event

Remarks of President-Elect Michael A. McRobbie
Indiana University
University Library Lower Level
Atrium Outside of Lilly Auditorium
IUPUI
March 5, 2007
1:30

1. INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your introduction, Charles.

What an exciting past few days this has been. I am delighted to become Indiana University's 18th president and to walk in the footsteps of the many great leaders who made this one of the best universities in the country.

You may be able to tell that I came to Indiana from Australia. In the decade that I have been here, I haven't quite lost my accent, but my family and I have become Hoosiers. Indiana and Indiana University have become our home.

2. A VITAL CROSSROADS

As Charles mentioned, this great university stands at a vital crossroads. We must remain focused on our fundamental missions of education and research. But we are facing heightened challenges: global competition for the best students and faculty; generational change among our intellectual leaders; and a climate of constrained resources.

These challenges require a president for the whole of this great University. I intend to be that president.

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3. IUPUI: THRIVING, ENGAGED, AND GROWING

As I said the other evening, everywhere you look here at IUPUI, you see evidence of dynamic growth and engagement.

The emerging outline of the new Campus Center bespeaks the thriving student life on this great campus. IUPUI's national recognition for excellence in community service and engagement shows that dynamism. This is, indeed, a "College with a Conscience."

The Information and Communication Technology Complex houses the Global Network Operations Center. This magnificent building reminds us of the dramatic impact IU has had worldwide in information technology.

And as Mark mentioned, that growth and engagement now extend to Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya. The comprehensive agreement that Chancellor Bantz just signed reveals one of the greatest strengths of Indiana University, which is its long history of international engagement. We are already forging partnerships to face the challenges of the global future.

5. CONCLUSION

Another great strength of this university is its geographical and intellectual reach. A balanced partnership between our great research campuses will only enhance that strength. By exposing students to the full range of human knowledge, we prepare them to thrive in an increasingly global marketplace. Our vision must be both local and global. We must serve the State while focusing on the international horizon.

The power of education is the power to succeed in the global future. Working together, I hope we can do just that.

Thank you very much.