

# 24<sup>th</sup> Annual IU Northwest Gala

Remarks of Michael A. McRobbie

President

Indiana University

Avalon Manor

3550 East Highway 30, Merrillville, Indiana

Friday, October 23

6:00 p.m.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Thank you, Bruce, for that kind introduction and for your outstanding leadership of the Indiana University Northwest campus. And I want to pay special tribute to Bruce's wife, Cynthia, who has been a superb first lady of this campus.

My wife Laurie and I are delighted to be here at tonight's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual IU Northwest Gala and to help celebrate this campus' 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In the past, we have met great IU supporters, enjoyed excellent food, fine wine, and short speeches. What else could you want?

Both of us have very fond memories of the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual gala we attended during my first year as IU president, and I must say we were extremely impressed by the entire affair. This gala truly is a wonderful event, and I applaud the many individuals who have devoted their time and energy to planning such a great tradition.

A number of senior university leaders are with us this evening. I am pleased to introduce Mike Sample, Vice President for Public Affairs and Government Relations; Gene Tempel, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Indiana University Foundation, and his wife, Mary; and James C. Wimbush, Dean of the Indiana University Graduate School. Would you help me welcome them?

I would also like to acknowledge some particularly distinguished guests who are with us this evening: Would you help me welcome IU's 14th president John Ryan, who is here with his wife Pat; and former Vice President Terry Clapacs and his wife, Phyllis.

Tonight we celebrate 50 years of remarkable growth at IU Northwest. Over that time, this campus has had an enormous impact on the economic, social, and cultural health of the region it serves. More recently, it has banded together to overcome extreme adversity. That the campus could bounce back so quickly from last year's terrible flood damage is a testament to the leadership of Chancellor Bergland and to the strength and spirit of its faculty, staff, and students. We are working hard with the State Budget Committee on Tamarack Hall, and I hope we will have good news soon.

## 2. GREAT PROGRESS AT IU

This celebration comes at a most exciting time at IU. Just a few short days ago, IU Professor Elinor Ostrom was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences. She is the first woman to win the award since its inception more than 40 years ago. She is also the eighth Nobel Laureate in IU's history.

All of us at IU can take great pride in Professor Ostrom's victory, as well as in the remarkable progress taking place all across the university.

This fall, IU welcomed a record 107,160 students to its campuses—a 5.3 percent increase over last year when enrollment topped the 100,000 mark for the first time in the university's history. At IU Northwest, enrollment increased by 16 percent, and records were set for African American, Asian American, and Hispanic students.

This suggests the confidence people place in IU and in higher education in general. When times are tough, they turn to education as a means for improvement.

Just last week, I announced that IU's "Matching the Promise" fundraising campaign surpassed the \$1 billion threshold and is well on its way to reaching its \$1.1 billion goal.

And earlier this year, the IU Northwest campus announced it had received the single-largest donation in its history—a \$675,000 pledge from the Indiana Attorney General's office in support of endowed scholarships for students from Gary's Emerson neighborhood.

### 3. HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT JAMES W. DYE

Earlier today, I had the distinct pleasure of conferring an honorary degree upon James W. Dye, a former IU trustee and longtime friend of and benefactor to IU Northwest, his alma mater. And I know that Jim is also a longtime friend of many people in this room.

Many of you know of Jim's deep and lasting commitment to helping deserving students earn a quality education and realize their dreams. Through his nonprofit organization, The James W. and Betty Dye Foundation, he has supported numerous programs and scholarships at IU, including the Jim and Betty Dye Scholarship for Nontraditional Students at IU Northwest. Like many of you, Jim believes in the transformative power of education to improve the lives of our students and make a positive impact in our communities. Indeed, through his support of this campus, he has made a major difference in the quality of life in Northwest Indiana.

Jim's many awards were listed this afternoon. He is also a Zora Clevinger Award winner, one of IU's most important awards in athletics for a letterman who has continued to support IU.

It is my great pleasure to introduce distinguished alumnus of Indiana University, former member of the IU Board of Trustees, and a great Hoosier success story, Jim Dye.

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do for Indiana University.