

PRIORITIES FOR COLLEGIAL ATTAINMENT

PRIORITY 1 : Foster Student Learning, Access and Success

Indiana University South Bend's central mission is to serve as a gateway to excellence for a challenging, growing, and diverse student body, joined by the belief in the promise of higher education to prepare them for citizenship in a complex global society. Moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Indiana University South Bend will be an even more student-centered campus, providing an environment of learning that reflects our high expectations for student success. Building on a strong commitment to public education, our recommendations for the next decade emphasize access, equity and quality.

First on our list is the continuing improvement of campus life. Facilities are a key, with the exciting prospect and potential of on-campus student residences. The full use of the Student Activities Building will include both curricular and co-curricular programs. We also recommend development of student leadership, support of academic attainment, and rewards for special distinction. We also recommend full implementation of recent campus initiatives to create a "one-stop" student learning support center, including child development and health and wellness services.

We envision an Indiana University South Bend student's collegiate experience as part of a long-term educational continuum -- an invitation to life-long learning. Thus, our recommendations for the future include outreach to the community at large to enhance precollegiate and postgraduate opportunities.

Our recommendations are consistent with the Higher Learning Commission's criterion of "*student learning*" and its theme of "*Institutional Engagement*." In pledging to pursue these ambitious goals, we seek to promote a higher level of student engagement - intellectual, social, and civic - as a bridge to an even more promising future.

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**I. Design and implement new plan for "Campus Life" in the coming decade.**

1. Develop plan for campus housing: residential activities, management policies.
2. Develop and implement integrated plan for extramural, intramural athletics, fitness, and recreational sports programs.
3. Plan range of SAC programs for diverse IUSB constituencies which promote more student-faculty-staff interaction.

**II. Implement Enrollment Management plan to unify, boost IUSB's recruitment, admissions, retention, and attainment efforts.**

1. Expand communication to community to promote benefits and instill high expectations of college study.
2. Develop informational workshops and "open houses" on IUSB/college for middle, high school students, parents, teachers, counselors.
3. Develop and utilize student-faculty-staff recruitment "teams."
4. Design and organize information sessions on opportunities for non-traditional students.
5. Expand faculty involvement in new student orientation to promote high academic expectations

**III. Enhance Student Engagement in learning and leadership through community and campus interaction.**

1. Identify and train "IUSB Student Ambassadors"; use in college information and community presentations.
2. Expand and support campus-wide utilization of students in tutoring, mentoring, orientation and peer advising programs.
3. Develop programs to promote students' civic engagement and responsibility (e.g., American Democracy Project).
4. Increase level of student engagement in service and experiential learning projects (involved with faculty, staff, and alumni).

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**IV. Promote IUSB as "Learning Center": Coordinate Student Support and Academic Attainment.**

1. Complete reorganization and plan space allocation for "one-stop" Student Learning Support Services (tutoring, career, supplemental instruction, "stay at IUSB".)
2. Expand student health, wellness, disability assistance and counseling programs in visible and accessible location
3. With Schurz Library leadership, plan "information commons" to support student learning
4. Complete reorganization of Child Development Center including linkage with early childhood Education programs

**V. Improve Physical Environment of Learning to Enhance Student Academic Success.**

1. Equip and improve all IUSB Classrooms, laboratories, and studios.
2. Promote and expand Summer Session opportunities for area college "visitors" and area educators as well as IUSB students.
3. Develop a plan to enhance and expand on-campus student "gathering" and study space (an IUSB Student Union) as part of overall campus facilities plan.
4. Expand and promote opportunities for high school students to begin college study (including ACP)

**VI. Enhance Student Access to IUSB Programs.**

1. Enhance Financial Aid and Scholarship services.
2. Encourage all faculty to make course syllabi and resource materials web-accessible.
3. Increase use of peer mentors to assist freshmen and transfer students in transition to IUSB.
4. Fully implement and support "Direct Advising" by faculty in all academic units .
5. Through Office of Public Affairs and University Advancement, enhance visibility of IUSB programs in and beyond region.
6. Develop a plan to explore further use of "Distance Education" for degree completion and other student needs.

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**VII. Assess factors influencing the academic success of IUSB students.**

1. Through Office of Institutional Research, investigate the impact of preparatory programs, such as Core 40 requirements, on academic attainment at IUSB.
2. Investigate and identify barriers to academic success .
3. Implement and analyze results of National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE).
4. Develop separate process of tracking "non-degree" students to discern their success in attaining their desired goals.

**VIII. Provide further support, recognition, and incentives for Student Achievement.**

1. Enlist faculty and alumni to encourage IUSB students to consider post-graduate study.
2. Increase Merit, Honors Scholarships, and establish honorary societies for all academic programs.
3. Provide more visibility for IUSB student achievements in research and the arts.
4. Develop a plan to investigate use of student electronic portfolios to assess and record undergraduate experience.
5. Develop fellowships, scholarships, internships and awards for graduate students at IUSB.