Dear Colleagues,

READY AND EXCITED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE! That’s the rallying call of the university’s retention efforts. For its second year, the Student Success Initiative (SSI) has brought together high-impact programs and initiatives focused on student learning, development, and engagement.

As the Office of Academic Affairs and the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, we are excited about the progress we are making. We invite you to join us in celebrating the achievements of our students and colleagues.

Some of you may have read recently the manuscript “Paragon: A Campus of the Future,” which was presented by the University of Southern California to the National Governors Association. The manuscript outlines a vision for the future of higher education, emphasizing the importance of student success and the need for institutions to adapt to meet the changing needs of students.

During the week of October 13, IU South Bend will be participating in a system-wide celebration of excellence at Indiana University. Our week of festivities will begin with a concert performance by the newly arrived string quartet whose musical selections complement our campus theme of sustainable communities. Throughout the week there will be faculty and student forums on the theme and the week will conclude with “Paragon Springs,” a theatrical adaptation of Henrik Ibsen’s “An Enemy of the People.”

Some students may have read recently the cover story of The Chronicle of Higher Education on undergraduate research. Although, national attention is being focused on undergraduate research, and the article mildly rebukes educators for half-hearted efforts in this regard, I am proud of the long tradition of research at the university. The award honors the notion that how one engages with the world of thought is a hallmark of the university’s mission.

As the Office of Academic Affairs and the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, we are focused on student learning, development, and engagement. We are committed to making IU South Bend a reality. Kudos to everyone at the university for their hard work and dedication.

The Center for opening day. I encourage you to take a drive downtown Elkhart on Friday for the newly completed IU South Bend Center. It’s a beautiful building that is part of the university’s initiative to expand its footprint in Elkhart County. The Center is already experiencing an increase in enrollment in new degree programs.

As you heard from the chancellor’s state of the university, the new strategic plan starts with an environmental scan that will enable IU South Bend to understand the external environment and its relationship to institutional planning. More on this topic will be forthcoming in the next (or more) months.

Kudos to Bruce Spitzer, Grant Black, with teacher advocate Kathy Heyse (Elkhart), and my colleagues for their hard work and dedication. We are all excited about the future of IU South Bend.

Last year in the Academic Cabinet and I focused our attention on defining the vision, mission, and values of Academic Affairs at Indiana University South Bend. I encourage you to review the statements on the Academic Cabinet webpage.

Best wishes for another outstanding academic year.

Sincerely,

Alfred J. Gilliam, Jr.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs