ALL-CAMPUS MEETING
Friday, August 27, 2012
9 a.m. in Northside Main Auditorium
Remarks from Chancellor Reck

Good morning.

Thank you for being here for the kick-off of the new academic year.

I always look forward to this meeting because it is an opportunity for us to get together as a team before classes begin.

When I became chancellor here, I started the tradition of beginning these meetings with a performance from members of the Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts.

The performances have been uplifting and a great way to start the new year.

At this time, I would like to invite Dean Marvin Curtis to the stage to introduce this year’s performers.

(DANCE PERFORMANCE)

Thank you. That was beautiful.

I hope all of you had an enjoyable summer and are ready for the new year.

This is a special All-Campus meeting for me.

It will be my last one as Chancellor.

I’m looking forward to completing my service as chancellor this academic year.

I would like to take a few minutes this morning to reflect on some of our accomplishments during my tenure over the last eleven years.

The biggest accomplishment is that I survived, so far!

In 2002, when I arrived as chancellor this was a very different campus.

There were more than 20 interim and unfilled administrative positions.

It was an opportunity for me to re-organize the administrative structure and develop a senior leadership team.
I made sure the critical needs of the campus had a champion and the resources to be successful.

Because the Student Activities Center had just opened I wanted to strengthen student life on campus so the position of Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management was created within the first two years.

Communications and fundraising were important so the position of Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs and University Advancement was also established.

Technology in higher education was exploding so the position of Vice Chancellor for Information Technologies was created.

These positions joined the already established positions of Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Vice Chancellor for Administrative and Fiscal Affairs to form the Chancellors Cabinet.

A few of the members have changed over the years but I believe the Chancellor’s Cabinet has been an excellent leadership team.

They will be introduced later in the program.

One of the first capital projects I learned about when I arrived was the pedestrian bridge.

People told me it was crucial to the future of IU South Bend because it would link the main campus to the property on the other side of the river so it could be developed.

I also heard that it would never happen.

I took that as a challenge.

Chris Chocola was our congressman at the time and I began discussions with him about the project.

He thought he could get it included in a bill as an Army Corps of Engineers project.

I was not familiar with the way Congress worked but we kept in touch and it kept moving through the budget process.

In 2005, the project was approved and funded.

As construction of the bridge started, the next project I was told would never happen was student housing.

Another challenge.
Not only was this project going to be larger and more difficult, there was mounting pressure for it because no one wanted a bridge to nowhere.

Student housing at IU South Bend was first mentioned in 1988 in a previous campus master plan.

At that time two major hurdles needed to be cleared before student housing could become a reality.

The pedestrian bridge needed to be built and IU needed to give approval for regional campuses to have student housing.

With the bridge under construction, I headed to Bloomington to make our case.

In 2006, with the help of former IU President Adam Herbert and the Board of Trustees, IU South Bend became the first regional campus approved for student housing.

With the help of Indiana House Speaker Pat Bauer and State Senator Robert Meeks the project was approved by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education and the State Budget Committee.

And finally after a campus visit in 2007, Governor Mitch Daniels approved the release of state bonds so construction could begin.

River Crossing is now five years old and it has changed the culture of the campus.

Student housing enhances the collegiate experience, improves campus spirit, increases student participation in campus activities, improves retention and provides opportunities for social and cultural growth by students.

But not all of the construction projects took place on campus.

I have said many times that the story of the IU South Bend Elkhart Center is the best example of a community’s commitment to higher education that I have ever seen.

A group of business leaders, led by Art Decio and Bob Deputy, had a vision of a university presence in downtown Elkhart.

In 2005, Ilene Sheffer and I met with them and the project took off.

Originally, the plan was to raise two-point five million dollars and build a 13-thousand square foot facility.

However, they exceeded expectations.
Four million dollars was raised and the building grew to its current 25-thousand square feet with 13 classrooms, a computer lab, a science lab, and offices.

The Elkhart Center opened in 2007 and has created a bond with the Elkhart community that will endure for generations to come.

A strong bond with the South Bend community was created with the renovation of the Natatorium as part of the Civil Rights Heritage Center.

IU South Bend is now physically connected to the west side of South Bend.

I remember the dedication ceremony for the Natatorium on that hot day in May, 2010. Many of you were there. There was a feeling of pride, accomplishment and healing. It was a community celebration.

The work of the Civil Rights Heritage Center and the use of the Natatorium is a wonderful example of outreach beyond the campus.

We can all be proud that the Civil Rights Heritage Center at the Natatorium was one of the reasons South Bend was recently selected as an All-American City.

The City of South Bend, the South Bend Heritage Foundation, IU South Bend, and many others worked hard to preserve the Natatorium as an enduring symbol of the civil rights movement.

We helped save something that could have been lost.

We helped preserve a piece of history that contains lessons for us all.

Do any of you remember the old carpet in the Administration building?

I walked on it every day.

It served as my inspiration to renovate the building which is still an ongoing project.

But there has been good progress.

The second floor is completed.

The School of Business and Economics has the professional office environment it deserves, as do the administrative offices on the other side of the floor.
On the first floor, the Gateway is now a welcoming area where first-time visitors to IU South Bend get a good first impression of the university.

The Alumni Office, Bursar, IU Credit Union, and Dining Services offices were also remodeled.

And most recently, the two courtyards have been re-done which has added to the beauty of the building.

The biggest and most difficult capital project to accomplish was the renovation of the Education and Arts Building.

I must admit that I enjoyed every moment of the demolition of that red-brick building when the renovation started.

The old Associates Building, as it was called, was an eye sore on a piece of prime real estate for the campus.

For that reason, I cannot overstate the importance of the renovation to IU South Bend.

It makes the campus whole, it provides a modern classroom building for students and faculty, and it will be home to three of the most noteworthy programs on campus.

The School of Education, fine arts programs from the Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts, and the Dental Hygiene program.

I am looking forward to the completion of the project and the official dedication of the building on April 17.

There are other significant capital projects that have enhanced the campus.

The parking situation is much-improved from when I arrived.

170 new parking spaces have been added in the new parking lots along Esther Street.

Forty-four vacant houses owned by IU were demolished to make room for the lots which improved the neighborhood on the west side of campus.

I must say those are the nicest parking lots I have ever seen.

Hungry students, faculty and staff now have more options when it comes to eating on campus.

The University Grill in the Administration Building has been transformed into a warm and comfortable place to eat, socialize and study.
Plus, the new kitchen can now provide a larger variety of healthy and hot menu items.

And the Northside Express filled a need for grab-and-go food on the south side of campus.

When combined with the Courtyard Café, IU South Bend now has three good dining areas across campus.

Strategic planning was an area that needed immediate attention.

The Higher Learning Commission had identified comprehensive strategic planning as an institutional challenge at IU South Bend.

Two faculty members emerged who I would end up counting on many times during my tenure – Eileen Bender and Becky Torstrick.

Under their leadership, and with help from the Campus Directions Committee, the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee, and Environmental Scanning teams, the campus strategic plan was completed and still guides us today.

Operational plans were developed from the strategic plan and have been in place for the last three years.

At the same time, Eileen and Becky were also preparing the self-study for the re-accreditation site visit by the Higher Learning Commission.

The self-study was a magnificent document.

It was a thorough examination of the strengths and weaknesses of the university and provided a window into virtually every campus operation.

The self-study led to a ten-year reaccreditation by the HLC in 2008.

It was a proud moment for me and the campus.

I thanked Eileen and Becky many times and I am so glad I did because Eileen is no longer with us.

I think of her often and her legacy lives on.

I get a lot of credit for working with elected officials to get funding and approval for many of the capital projects I have mentioned.

But I can tell you now that I didn’t know the first thing about lobbying when I started.
My reputation for being relentless actually comes from my lack of experience in dealing with the legislature.

I simply asked my executive assistant Teri Harness to call all of our local legislators and make appointments for me in their districts.

They agreed to the meetings.

Then I got more confident and asked Teri to make appointments with legislative leaders during the session in Indianapolis.

They agreed to those meetings.

Pretty soon almost all of them knew me at the State House because I had met with them and always wore a bright red dress.

I learned a lot from my trips to Indianapolis.

One thing I learned was that our legislators are hard-working people in a tough environment.

They always listened and always wanted to help even when there weren’t any resources. Politics didn’t matter when I talked with them individually.

Politics came later when they had to work as a group.

I have a lot of respect for our elected officials.

Many of the improvements and programs on campus are due to the dramatic increase in fundraising at IU South Bend.

This slide tells the story.

IU South Bend has raised more in private donations in the last ten years then in the previous history of the campus.

From 1960 to 2002 almost $10 million was raised.

From 2003 to today about $16 million has been raised.

During difficult economic times and cuts in state appropriations, private monies have allowed scholarships to grow and projects to take place across campus.

I want to thank Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs and University Advancement Ilene Sheffer for her leadership and all the things she taught me about fundraising.
More good news is on the horizon.

You can expect an announcement in the near future about largest, single-donor gift ever given to the campus.

Until then I am sworn to secrecy.

I have the honor of presiding over the largest enrollment in IU South Bend’s history. The campus set several records for student headcount and credit hours during my tenure.

I share that accomplishment with many of you in this room.

But instead of resting on our laurels the administration made several decisions that we knew would affect enrollment.

There has been a strategic shift from focusing on enrollment growth to focusing on student success, retention and graduation.

There are many reasons for the shift.

Pressure has come from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education through its Reaching Higher report, from the state legislature, from the governor, and from IU.

But the main reason is because it is the right thing to do for our students.

At IU South Bend, fewer conditional students are being admitted, more students are being referred to Ivy Tech Community College North Central, and development courses in math and English have been substantially reduced.

These moves have resulted in a decline in headcount and credit hours from record levels.

However, these moves will result in an increase retention and graduation rates.

Enrollment is still strong and stable.

But now growth will come in the form of more students persisting and graduating.

There will be many opportunities this year to reminisce with you about all we have done in the past eleven years.

We will laugh and maybe even cry.

But this morning I want to make sure that I don’t overshadow another important transition in leadership.
Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Alfred Guillaume is stepping down at the end of the academic year as well.

Alfred will address you later in the program but I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank him for his service and friendship.

Let’s give him a round of applause.

(APPLAUSE)

Now, let’s look ahead.

Let’s begin with enrollment.

The latest figures show that headcount is 2.5 percent behind last year at this time.

Credit hours are 2.7 percent behind last year at this time.

The figures won’t be official until after census which is September 3rd.

I want to thank Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Jeff Jones and his staff for their hard work.

I also want to thank the faculty and staff advisors for helping in the enrollment, advising, and registration process.

One of my goals for the coming year is to complete the renovation of the first floor of the Administration Building.

Architect’s plans have been developed to re-model the remaining areas which include the student services and admissions wings.

The areas are very busy and have a lot of foot traffic from students, parents and others.

It is critical to present a professional and modern setting and to have efficient and comfortable offices.

I am confident that the funding will be completed and the project started this academic year.

The Education and Arts Building continues to look better every day.

It is still too soon for tours but the project is on schedule and will be open for classes next fall.
A dedication ceremony will be held in the spring and people will begin moving in next summer.

As I mentioned earlier, the Education and Arts Building has a special place in my heart and I am looking forward to seeing it completed.

The new integrated biology research lab in Northside hall is open for faculty and students this year.

The lab and an expanded greenhouse are wonderful enhancements to the science programs at IU South Bend.

A $595,000 grant from the National Science Foundation provided the funding for the project.

Congratulations to professors Andy Schnabel and Deborah Marr for writing the grant and seeing the project completed.

The campus theme this year is “Politics Everywhere – Citizen Engagement from the Local to the Global.”

There are issues relevant to every school and college on campus including health care policy, economic policy, censorship, arts funding and politics.

Associate Professor of Political Science Elizabeth Bennion is leading the campus theme this year.

I encourage you to work with her to integrate the theme across campus.

The second season of women’s volleyball is underway.

The Lady Titans played Davenport College on Wednesday.

They won/lost in a great effort in front of the home crowd.

The team is fun to watch and I encourage you to support them this season.

Immediately following this meeting, is a new event – the All-Campus Brunch. You are all invited to attend.

The brunch will be held on the campus mall outside the University Grill and will include new students and their guests.

There is plenty of food, so don’t worry.
Please take the opportunity to get re-acquainted with your colleagues and meet some of our new students.

Then at noon, the second annual New Student Induction Ceremony will get underway in the Student Activities Center.

This tradition was started last year and welcomes new students into the academic community.

I’m looking forward to it.

I hope to see many of you will be there.

I want to close by reading a portion of a letter that Rob Ducoffe, dean of the School of Business and Economics passed along to me.

It is from a student to three professors in the business school: Jamshid Mahran, Alex Meisami, and Raj Kohli.

It reads: “My intention of writing this email is to thank you for the quality education and opportunities provided in Finance at IU South Bend.

After having completed 21 credits in the Kelley MBA program, I’ve really been able to develop a good idea of how the IU South Bend is relative to a top 20 program.

In doing so, I’ve realized that I was extremely lucky to have you three as professors.

While the Kelley professors are also great, I feel I was better prepared for the MBA than most of my other colleagues in the program.

In all of my courses, I score at the top of the class and several of my classmates frequently call, email and ask me for tutoring help.

In my Asset Valuation/Derivatives/Hedging course, my professor informed me I am the first MBA student to receive 100 percent.

I don’t mention my performance to brag but to evidence how great the education at IU South Bend is.

For all this I say- thank you.

John Busenbark, Indiana University Kelley School of Business, MBA program.

What a wonderful testimonial.
Letters like that are inspirational for all of us, especially as we get ready to start a new academic year.

In closing, I want to remind you of our campus parameters of engagement – communication, teamwork, integrity, civility and commitment.

They have served us well for the last ten years.

IU South Bend will continue to operate under those guidelines to identify debate and resolve issues on campus.

Thank you for taking time to be here this morning.

I deeply appreciate your dedication to IU South Bend.

Let’s have a wonderful year together.

At this time I would like to introduce the members of the Chancellor’s Cabinet.

Please stand when your name is called.

Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Alfred Guillaume.

Vice Chancellor for Administrative and Fiscal Affairs, Bill O’Donnell.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Jeff Jones.

Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs and University Advancement, Ilene Sheffer.

Chief Information Officer Beth Van Gordon.

Reports from the chancellor’s cabinet this morning will begin with Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Alfred Guillaume.

I now invite Vice Chancellor of Administrative and Fiscal Affairs Bill O’Donnell to the podium.

I now invite Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Jeff Jones to the podium.

I now invited Vice Chancellor of Public Affairs and University Advancement Ilene Sheffer to the podium.

I now invite IU South Bend Chief Information Office Beth Van Gordon to the podium.

I now invite academic senate president Lesley Walker to come to the podium.
I now invite Professional Staff Co-President Kathleen Weidner to come to the podium for her announcements.

Will Bi-Weekly Staff President Maureen Muldoon now come forward with her announcements.

That concludes our program.

Thank you all for coming.

Please enjoy the All-Campus Brunch in the quad.

Good luck in the coming year. We are adjourned.