ALL-CAMPUS MEETING
REMARKS FROM CHANCELLOR ALLISON
Friday, August 19, 2016 at 9 a.m. in Student Activities Center

Good morning. I’m Terry Allison, Chancellor of Indiana University South Bend. Thank you for being here for the kick-off of the new academic year.

We are meeting in the Student Activities Center today because of repairs and construction taking place across campus but mostly in Northside Hall. We have had a run of bad luck lately with record rainfall finding every hole, crack, and crevice to flow through in an old building that is under renovation. The roof and windows of Northside Hall were being replaced this summer when the recent rains hit which led to assorted leaks and puddles. And the Main Auditorium is having much needed improvements made to the rigging. Despite all this, we will be ready to welcome students to campus on Monday. But don’t ask me about my basement...

I had an interesting summer. You have probably noticed that I’m wearing a sling. I can assure you that this was not a Pokemon-Go related accident, but yet another renovation that is taking a bit longer than anticipated.

On a more fun note, I was able to spend half a week at a theater festival and two entire weeks developing my own musical over the summer. It was a joy working with faculty, staff, and students of the Raclin School of the Arts and I have even greater appreciation for the work they do. So...DO ask me about my musical! Now, I’m happy to be back with you and energized to start my fourth year as chancellor.

We have much to look forward to this year on campus, in the community, and in the country. As the election approaches in November it raises many issues that we can help our students and the public to navigate and illuminate. Later in the program I will give a campus update and talk about our role in civic engagement during these tumultuous political times.

Academics and student success come first at IU South Bend, so at this time I want to introduce our next speaker. Her leadership coordinates the efforts of academic affairs, student affairs, and enrollment services in supporting students from enrollment to graduation. Please welcome Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Jann Joseph.

It is a tradition at this meeting to hear from the leaders of three very important groups on campus, the academic senate, the professional staff council, and the bi-weekly staff council.

At this time I invite academic senate president Ken Smith to come to the podium.
I now invite Professional Staff President Rick Dennie to come forward for his remarks.

I now invite Bi-Weekly Staff President Carrie Troeger to come forward with her remarks.

Thank you, Carrie. At this time I would like to introduce the newest member of the Chancellor’s Cabinet.

Phil Iapalucci joined us in July as the vice chancellor for administration and finance. Phil has more than 25 years of financial management experience including locally at the University of Notre Dame and Southwestern Michigan College. He also worked at the University of South Carolina system, Eastman Kodak, Deloitte & Touche and Marvista Entertainment. We did a national search and found the person we wanted right here in Granger. Please join me in welcoming Phil to campus.

I’d like the other members of the Chancellor’s Cabinet to stand when I introduce you:

Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Jann Joseph.

Vice Chancellor for University Advancement Ilene Sheffer.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Services Karen White.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Cathy Buckman.

Chief Information Officer Beth Van Gordon.

Chief of Staff and Director of Communications and Marketing Ken Baierl.

I appreciate their support and leadership. I also greatly appreciate the support of my assistant, Colleen Hawkins. Let’s give them all a round of applause.

Since we have not gathered since the spring and because we have new people joining us this year, I want to give a brief campus update to catch everyone up. Let’s start with fall enrollment.

There are some promising trends. Credit hours and headcount look to be about the same as last year--which is good. It means we have stabilized after several years of record high enrollment during the Great Recession followed by several years of steady
declines as the economy improved and competition for students increased. Stable enrollment also means our budget planning is on target after several years of reductions.

The incoming class is better prepared than last year. Beginners have higher SAT scores than last year, and there are more who graduated with high school academic honors and Core 40. More are taking 15 to 18 credits hours and fewer are taking 9 to 12.

I am particularly pleased with that statistic because studies show that students who go to college full-time are more likely to graduate, will graduate sooner, and will have less debt. We have been working hard on communicating the benefits of taking 15 credit hours a semester, and along with implementing banded tuition, it seems to be getting through to students when they register. Students enrolled in 15 credit hours or more have increased by 8 percentage points and we lead the regional campuses in this category. I want to thank the academic advisors for their help in guiding students in this direction.

Enrollment in graduate programs also is up after years of decline and leveling off last year. The efforts of the School of Education and the Leighton School of Business and Economics to reconfigure graduate programs are now helping their enrollment to grow.

Enrollment of new transfer students from all colleges and universities is up over last year as well and we continue to increase the number of students enrolled in the ABC Program in partnership with Ivy Tech.

River Crossing student housing has reached full occupancy for the second year in a row and has a growing waitlist. My thanks to Associate Vice Chancellor Karen White and her team in Housing and Residence Life for their hard work. The faculty-staff housing task force recommendations were essential to growing our population in housing.

These positive trends are the result of a lot of hard work and strategic decisions over the past few years. I am very proud of the progress we have made but there is still much work to do.

Retention continues to be an issue. We have spent a lot of time and resources on trying to increase the retention rate of students from their freshmen to sophomore year and while we have seen some incremental improvements, the increase is not as significant as I would like. This year you will continue to hear me and Jann and others talk about what we can do to retain and graduate our students.

I mentioned some of the repairs taking place because of unexpected damage from rain and flooding but there are many construction project underway that will enhance our facilities.
You may have noticed the construction taking place on the first floor of the Administration Building. A $4.4 million renovation is underway that will transform the way we provide student services. When the project is completed a year from now, all of the offices that support students, from admission to graduation, will be together. We studied adjacencies and designed the area to have the right people next to each other to be more effective, efficient, and convenient for students. The Administration Building is also getting much needed replacement windows as part of an additional $1 million in renovations that will improve heating and cooling in the building.

Over $4 million of renovations will begin soon on Riverside Hall, allowing for the expansion of our Health and Wellness Center to better serve the campus and the community. A Center for Health Education will offer more opportunities for students to learn and practice their skills. A groundbreaking ceremony for this project, led by Indiana University President Michael McRobbie, will be held on October 19.

Northside Hall is the oldest building on campus and is showing its age. However, we are in phase 1 of a $2.4 million renovation that is focused on repairing the exterior including the roof and windows. Phase 2 will add significant new renovations, and planning remains underway for it.

Roofs seem to be a theme with construction projects, we are also spending $780,000 for roof replacement on University Center.

Construction means progress but it also means inconvenience. I ask you to be patient this year. It will be worth it.

I am happy to report that a project submitted by IU South Bend was one of 14 that received preliminary approval for funding as part of the Regional Cities Initiative.

The Regional Development Authority has earmarked $399,000 to add an expanded simulation lab for nursing and other health sciences at the IU South Bend Elkhart Center. Other labs will allow us to offer graduate degrees in rehabilitation sciences. The construction request still needs to be approved at the state level. Then we are required to match these funds at a 4:1 ratio. Work is already underway to raise the $1.6 million to fully fund the project. And EVC Joseph continues to work with IUPUI, our interim dean of Health Sciences, Karen Clark, and our faculty in health sciences to advance the new program proposals that will enable us to offer these new graduate degrees.

Speaking of fundraising, the campus continues to make progress toward our goal as part of the “For All: The Indiana University Bicentennial Campaign”. We stand at $20.4 million of the $35 million goal. IU has an overall goal of $2.5 billion dollars. The campaign will conclude in December 2019 to coincide with IU’s bicentennial year celebration in 2020. We have received wonderful support of emeriti as well as current faculty and staff in support of the Bicentennial Campaign. I’d like to thank each and
every one of you who have contributed to the annual fund and to the Bicentennial Campaign.

IU South Bend will be celebrating three important anniversaries this year. I have declared the 2016-17 a Jubilee Year for the campus to celebrate 100 years of classes being offered by Indiana University in South Bend; 50 years of diplomas being conferred at IU South Bend; and 25 years of providing academic programs through the School of the Arts.

A Jubilee Year Celebration Task Force is planning the activities that will coincide with Alumni Week in April and Commencement in May. We have representatives from the first three graduating classes on the task force along with campus and community members. You will be hearing more about the events and I encourage you to participate and celebrate.

I want to conclude my remarks with some thoughts about the role of civic engagement at IU South Bend. This academic year, Executive Vice Chancellor, Jann Joseph, and I will be asking the campus to sustain focus on civic engagement. A presidential election year provides a reason to engage ever more deeply into the relationship between the university and the community, but we would like our efforts to grow beyond this year so that IU South Bend continues to expand its reputation as our regional leader in promoting engagement, fostering debate, and helping diverse communities to achieve a prominent voice in shaping the future of the extended region that we share.

The Chancellor’s Fund supported the American Democracy Project to study whether “I voted” stickers increase voter participation and also to understand how IU student identification cards could serve as required identification for voting. Voting is only one basic act of citizenship, and unfortunately an action often made more difficult than it needs to be. I’m proud that IU South Bend is contributing towards greater ease of voting and encouraging voter turnout. I’d also encourage each and every one of you to promote voting and other civic engagement. In a democracy, civic engagement should not be an option, but a shared responsibility.

At this time I’d like to introduce Elizabeth Bennion, professor of political science and director of the American Democracy Project at IU South Bend to talk briefly about what she has planned to engage the campus in the upcoming election. Elizabeth.

I want to thank Elizabeth for her leadership. She has helped make IU South Bend the go-to resource for election information and political insight in the region. Thank you, Elizabeth.

Beyond voting, we are trying to engage our students in ever greater participation in community efforts to improve the quality of life in our region. The Honors Program and our student athletes participate in required public service efforts, cleaning up the river,
working with youth groups, or undertaking other service. I applaud the Social Work Program’s research and initiative to start a food bank on campus and congratulate our SGA for organizing a public forum on the Black Lives Matter and other activist movements, engaging the City of South Bend as a partner. And of course, in the expansion of our Health and Wellness Center as well as our dental hygiene clinic in partnership with HealthLinc, we are undertaking major steps to improve the health of those in the communities immediately surrounding IU South Bend.

As we re-examine our general education program, we should consider required service learning as part of the first-year experience. The National Survey of Student Engagement has demonstrated that course-integrated service learning is the most engaging experience for first-year students, increasing retention and eventual graduation.

The Civil Rights Heritage Center has greatly increased activity and hosts a number of activities, from lectures to free tax services provided by our business students. The Center for a Sustainable Future continues under new leadership as we are exploring the creation of a sustainability showcase for the community just west of the library.

Indiana University has examined our diversity efforts across all campuses, employing a consultant firm, Halualani & Associate, to inventory and assess our efforts. As the Halualani report demonstrates, we are very strong in fostering public debate with academic units such as Women and Gender Studies and the School of Education leading the way. I have charged the campus Diversity Leadership team to recommend how our efforts can become more systematic and far-reaching so that we are engaging all sectors of our communities.

Over the summer, EVC Joseph and I met with the local organizers of a unique communal housing arrangement along the East Race to see how our students might participate, particularly as our own housing is full and we are wait-listing students for the first time. We have been looking for other opportunities to cluster students and engage them within the community once they leave our housing.

In addition to our role with the Regional Cities Initiative that I mention earlier, the campus is home to the office of the North Central Indiana Small Business Development Center. The ISBDC continues to expand partnerships with regional chambers of commerce to foster small business and entrepreneurship.

The Judd Leighton School of Business and Economics is working to meet employer needs and expand the pool of qualified college graduates in areas such as accounting, where there is a great deal of demand. I’m pleased that more businesses and donors are investing in partnerships with IU South Bend in support of our students.
As you can see, civic engagement is part of the very fiber of IU South Bend, but we have to do more to develop a consistent pattern where every student and program is engaged. This year especially we will do everything we can to be part of the discussion and democratic process that the campus, community and country needs. I encourage you to be a part of it.

That concludes our program. I invite you to brunch under the tent by the University Grill. It is a great opportunity to visit with your colleagues and meet new people. I also encourage you to come back here at noon to attend the New Student Induction ceremony.

Thank you all for coming. Let’s have a great year together.