From the Director...

February 2, 2014 was National Groundhog Day and Punxsutawney Phil has predicted six more weeks of winter much to many of our disappointments. So have you had enough snow for a lifetime? While watching “The Today Show”, anchorwoman Tamron Hall was speaking about the amount of snow we were having and announced a hashtag, #enoughalready. Well I agree, enough is enough already, bring on the sun, heat, warmth, shorts and t-shirt weather. I think enough already with the sun setting at 5pm, dark nights, cloudy gray skies, cold weather (below zero temps).

Weather such as what we’ve been experiencing can bring on the doom and gloom mood in each of us. We need to know how to recognize these moods and how to get around them so that we continue to be successful. Below you will find some helpful tips on creating your own path in life with some helpful hints and tips on overcoming the winter blues and keeping yourself fresh and alert for the spring semester. Stay healthy mentally and physical my friends.

CREATE YOUR OWN PATH

✦ Set a 10-year goal you want to accomplish this semester
✦ Expand your network
✦ Be open to where the opportunities are. Try not to limit yourself
✦ Get a mentor or two. There are a lot of faculty and staff on campus that would love to serve as a mentor. Reach out and find one or two.
✦ Seek feedback, early and often. Schedule those meetings with your faculty, staff and administrators early and follow up when needed.
✦ Don’t be afraid to take risks
✦ Constantly re-assess
✦ Know when to say ‘no’
✦ Constantly re-assess

I would like to share that the Office of Housing and Residence Life has been working in redesigning our webpage. Please take a few minutes to check out the webpage with new and fresh photos, information and forms associated with River Crossing Housing. Enjoy the semester, stay safe, get plenty of rest and always study, study, study.

Have a great spring 2014 semester,
~Ricky

Important Dates in February

- Housing Freeze Ends ......................2/3
- Health & Safety Inspections ..........2/10-2/14
- RA Applications Due .....................2/14
- New & Returning RA Interviews ..................................................2/17-2/28
- New RA Group Process Day ..........2/22
The key to success in school is staying focused on your course work. Make a list to get an overall picture of your workload before you start to tackle any of it. Then, make a plan. Although it’s tempting to do the simplest assignments first, those that take more time and effort to accomplish are probably the ones that you’ll learn the most from.

Give yourself a quick reward when you complete an assignment or task. Take a walk, send an email, get a snack — whatever works for you. Then move on to the next project.

If you’re having trouble writing a 25-page paper for class because it seems like such a big job, don’t focus on that final number. Break the paper down and consider each section of your paper individually. You can handle any project in small chunks.

Create a group of people around you who want to help you succeed. Mentors can be teachers or family friends who can give you guidance and help you develop new skills. Counselors can help you with planning your courses and starting to explore colleges. You can also reach out to friends and peers who can motivate you by listening and sharing ideas.

~from www.collegeboard.com

It’s FAFSA Time Again!
The offices of Financial Aid and MAC are holding some special events to help you out:
“UNLOCKING THE FAFSA”
Locations: Elkhart Campus, Friday 2/28 – 3pm & 4pm (Room 204)
South Bend Campus, Wed 2/26 – 1:30 & 2:30 (NS 0038)
Registration is required– email amiyoder@iusb.edu to reserve a spot

NOTES FROM THE FRONT DESK

Lose Something?
When items are found and turned in to the front desk, we usually hold on to them for a day or two to give residents a chance to pick them up here rather than making a trip to the Lost & Found on the other side of campus. After that, items are taken to the Lost & Found/Parking Office in the Administration Building.

So, long story short, if you lose something, please check at the Housing front desk first to see if we have it.

~from your friends at the front desk

Staying Motivated in February….

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2. Give yourself a quick reward when you complete an assignment or task. Take a walk, send an email, get a snack — whatever works for you. Then move on to the next project.

3. If you’re having trouble writing a 25-page paper for class because it seems like such a big job, don’t focus on that final number. Break the paper down and consider each section of your paper individually. You can handle any project in small chunks.

4. Create a group of people around you who want to help you succeed. Mentors can be teachers or family friends who can give you guidance and help you develop new skills. Counselors can help you with planning your courses and starting to explore colleges. You can also reach out to friends and peers who can motivate you by listening and sharing ideas.

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Bulletin Board of the Month

CONGRATULATIONS to February’s Bulletin Board of the Month Winner, Katie Roberts! Her bulletin board in Crew House features information about Sexually Transmitted Infections on Pokémon cards, and warns us “don’t catch ‘em all.” Katie also displays on the wall information about loving ourselves first and how to be our own Valentine. Stop by Crew to check out Katie’s bulletin boards!

~from your friends at the front desk