

# Indiana State University

2005 - 2006 Administrative Annual Report

First Year Experience Program

Year in Review

## Achievements

**As you have heard, increasing public awareness of Indiana State University's accomplishments is crucial to building student enrollment, influencing policy makers, and developing a place of pre-eminence in the Midwest. What do you consider to be your department's accomplishments for the 2006-07 year that will contribute to this effort? (Please list in priority order and limit to no more than 8.)**

1) Completed the Policy Center on the First Year in College Foundations of Excellence Process. Produced a report outlining the strengths and weaknesses and providing recommendations for improving the first year. <http://www.indstate.edu/site/fyp/taffy.html> 2) Increased the number and variety of Learning Community Offerings to include Family and Consumer Sciences majors. At this point only one major on campus with more than 15 freshmen does not have a Learning Community. 3) Worked with the SASC to fully fund the SI program to offer opportunities in every section of every top ten DWF course. 4) Worked with the Task Force on the First Year and the Faculty Senate to approve a Philosophy Statement on the First Year as well as Learning Goals and Outcomes for the First Year. 5) Worked with the academic advising coordinators to offer a variety of Sycamore Advantage sessions for transfer students. 6) Worked with the Notebook University Implementation Committee to ensure first year students and the faculty that teach them were considered during the implementation of this initiative. 7) Implemented initial year of GoalQuest for Students and Parents.

## Enrollment

**What steps did you take this year to aid ISU in overcoming enrollment challenges?**

As Co-chair of the Task Force on the First Year, and as Co-chair of the Retention Subcommittee of the Enrollment Management Task Force, the Coordinator worked with the Director of the SASC to produce a set of 28 specific recommendations for improving the first year at ISU. These include a recommendation to consolidate services and programs into one University College and a recommendation to enhance first-year advising.

## Action Steps

**Do you have any further progress you would like to report?**

The aforementioned Task Force on the First Year brought together 24 faculty, administrators, and students from across colleges and VP units to analyze the first year.

## Assessment

**What are two ways in which you evaluated the quality or effectiveness in your area last year? What changes did you make based on those assessments?**

Annually FYP works with OSPIRE to construct models of programmatic effectiveness. OSPIRE's analysis, as well as internal analysis continue to show that students participating in Learning Communities do better than those not in LCs. Further, the TAFFY process revealed significant retention impacts for students taking certain courses. The Coordinator of FYP worked with the

Director of the SASC to implement a five fold increase in the number of sections served by SIs. FYP will continue to work with the SASC to investigate whether this investment paid dividends.

### Budget

**As you know, ISU is facing significant budget challenges. Finding ways to overcome these while increasing efficiency requires innovation. How are you overcoming your budget challenges this year?**

The TAFFY report outlined the creation of a University College which would align student services and academic advising in a way that would potentially save money through program realignment and generate revenue through increased retention.

### **Future Goals**

#### Future Goals

**Have you considered any action steps your department could make to enhance Indiana State University's reputation as a University of choice? If so, please indicate what you are planning to do and tell us which area of planning your steps fall under.**

EM: The entire focus of the Task Force on the First Year and the committee's final report was how to align services with student needs to enhance student performance and satisfaction. It is axiomatic that students that perform better and are more satisfied with their experience will be more likely to persist and graduate. This must be FYP's primary goal.