

# Indiana State University

2006 - 2007 Administrative Annual Report

Blumberg Center

## Vision Statement

### View/Modify Vision

**The following is your vision statement loaded from previous submissions. Some administrative units, but not all, may wish to revise their vision statements based on the direction of the University toward pre-eminence. If this pertains to you, then please make changes in the box below:**

The Blumberg Center, as a distinctive unit of ISU, strives to be recognized as the major ISU resource to our academic community of learners pertaining to issues encountered by persons with exceptionalities, and persons with potential exceptionalities whose performance is adversely affecting educational outcomes. Through development of systematic approaches, our community of learners will have opportunities to participate in grant writing, interdisciplinary research, co-curricular learning activities, and problem solving with community agencies and organizations.

## 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.)**

Experiential Learning Opportunities for ISU Students. The Blumberg Center provided experiential workshops and trainings for ISU students in the College of Education departments of Elementary, Early, and Special Education and Communication Disorders, Counseling, School, and Educational Psychology. To date, 138 students have participated in these sessions. Community Outreach. The Center continues to provide professional development and technical assistance to educators, service providers, stakeholders, and family members supporting individuals with disabilities across the state of Indiana. During the 2006-2007 year, Blumberg Center's outreach activities reached a total of 1,342 individuals. Advisory Group to Inform Blumberg Center Outreach. A group of local school district personnel, family members, community agency representations, and ISU faculty and students have joined together to form an advisory group to guide the Center's outreach efforts in the local community. The Advisory Group will identify needs in the local community and provide direction for the Blumberg Center's future activities. Topical Series for the ISU and Terre Haute Community. The Blumberg Center continued the monthly topical series with presentations on current educational issues such as response to intervention, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004, and reading instruction. A total of 213 ISU faculty, staff, and students, local school personnel, and community members have attended the events. Recipient of Community Spirit Award. The Blumberg Center received the Indiana Governor's Planning Council for People with Disabilities Community Spirit award for a series of disability awareness activities offered in collaboration with Cunningham Memorial Library and Delta Sigma Omicron during March Disability Awareness Month. Program of State/Regional Distinction. The Blumberg Center was recognized as a program of State/Regional Distinction as part of Indiana State University's Distinctive Programs Initiative. Grants funded and services increased. The Blumberg Center received a total of \$1,406,955 from

state and federal grants and contracts to provide professional development and technical assistance across the state in areas that support educators, families, and individuals with disabilities. This represents a 15 percent increase in external funding over the previous year.

### Enrollment

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

The Center's grant-funded project, Project Vision, which is an Indiana State University/Ball State University joint graduate licensure program to prepare teachers of students with blindness or low vision, enrolled 6 ISU students as part of the 2007 cohort which includes both ISU and Ball State University students. Project Vision continued to provide training for the 2006 cohort, which consisted of 2 ISU students. Additionally, the Indiana Technical Assistance Facilitator Training Program is a two-year program designed to provide professional development opportunities in the area of deafblindness and severe disabilities. Graduate credit is being offered for on-line homework and three on-site sessions; two weekend seminars and a week long summer institute. A total of 6 credit hours will be available for those students completing all assignments and attending all sessions. There are thirteen professionals enrolled in the program; 6 plan on enrolling for graduate credit for the year's activities during the June Summer Institute.

### Action Steps

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

Action Step #1: Research efforts continue with multiple students and ISU faculty involved. Blumberg Center staff have presented at state and national conferences and published articles and book chapters related. Future research goals have been identified and graduate assistantships have been included in recent grant applications to support COE students in school psychology. Action Step #2: Experiential learning opportunities for ISU faculty and students continued over the current year. Goals for the upcoming year focus on extending beyond the current trainings/workshops to offer ongoing, field based experiences to COE students. Action Step #3: The Blumberg Center Discussion Group has continued to meet with an increasingly diverse group of ISU faculty members. The Discussion Group is preparing to seek external funding to support a community outreach project to address adolescent illiteracy through COE Elementary, Early, and Special Education students' field-based service.

### 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?**

The Blumberg Center evaluates program effectiveness through various means including stakeholder feedback and support, advisory groups, participant satisfaction evaluations, and goal attainment scaling. Each year, Center goals and corresponding Goal Attainment Scaling procedures are written collaboratively by the Center staff and the Center Steering Council. An Interim and Final Evaluation is completed each year by an external consultant. Results are shared with Center staff and the Steering Council who utilize the results to inform the development of the subsequent year's goals/evaluation procedures.

### 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 Blumberg Center will continue to explore avenues for providing services and technical assistance to educators and family members using more distance technologies, as appropriate, to increase cost-effectiveness. Additionally, the Center will continue to explore avenues for increasing funding and revenue.

### **Quality**

#### Quality

**Please provide 1-2 suggestions to increase the ability of your department or the University to meet the criteria above.**

Through the Center's outreach services and involvement in policy development at the state and national level, ISU is represented in engagement and service across the state of Indiana. Through this work, ISU faculty and students benefit through applied research and experiential learning. Future attainment of the above goals will require increasing integration of the Blumberg Center's grant-funded projects and ISU's COE programs.