

## From the Desk of the Chancellor

### Student engagement celebrated

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*by Charles R. Bantz*

*"Experience is not what happens to a man. It is what a man does with what happens to him." -- Aldous Leonard Huxley.*

The pursuit of a degree is what happens to countless students across the country and around the world each year. Some never achieve their goal. Some earn degrees and settle into their next lives. Then there are exceptional individuals who leave IUPUI dedicated to applying their experience, skills and knowledge to improve others' lives.

Fifty graduating seniors representing 14 IUPUI schools will today receive the William M. Plater Civic Engagement Medallion for demonstrating exemplary commitment to their communities over the course of their academic careers. The medallion is a memento. Their true prize is making a difference in people's lives.

One of the reasons IUPUI has achieved national prominence for engagement is because our commitment to partnerships with our community is ingrained, pervasive and valued across campus.

The Robert G. Bringle Civic Engagement Showcase and Symposium is our annual opportunity to celebrate the local leaders among our faculty, staff, students and community partners whose individual commitment to civic engagement has fueled our reputation for best practices in campus/community partnerships. It is also an opportunity to learn from the experiences of others and continuously improve our efforts to serve and engage our community.

"Strengthening Partnerships to Enhance Quality of Life in Indianapolis" is appropriately this year's theme, conveyed by keynote speaker Greg Lindsey, a professor at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota and a terrific former colleague who served as professor and associate dean of the IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs at IUPUI.

We thank the organizers of this wonderful symposium and salute the exceptional students honored -- with hopes that wherever life takes them from here, their experience will inspire a lifetime of commitment to community activism and service.

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