December 2010

With the official public launch of the $1.25 billion IUPUI IMPACT Campaign on October 9, we turn our attention in earnest to achieving our campaign priorities, one of which is increasing funding for scholarships.

This month, I'd like to highlight our special interest in scholarships that promote the international component of our RISE to the IUPUI Challenge initiative. RISE stands for Research, International, Service Learning, and Experiential Learning. We launched it to emphasize the kinds of learning experiences that will define an IUPUI undergraduate's education and consequently the alumni talent that will build our world's future.

International experiences are important to a well-rounded undergraduate education. Financial support is critical. Thus, the new RISE Scholarship.

The RISE scholarship fundraising effort will be helped by the Endowment Income Matching Gift Program that the campus recently established. The program matches the income generated by a donor's endowment gift. The endowment for each RISE scholarship is $20,000. Currently, this will generate $1,000 a year in interest income. The campus match will provide $500 more, thereby generating an annual scholarship of $1,500 in perpetuity.

Executive Vice Chancellor Uday Sukhatme, who implemented the RISE to the IUPUI Challenge, endowed the first RISE Scholarship at IUPUI.

He set it up in memory of his mother, Indumati Sukhatme, who passed away last May at age 93. Her international experience and perspectives inspired the gift, which will be used to support students' study abroad. Indumati and her husband, Pandurang Sukhatme, lived in India and also spent 25 years in Rome, Italy, where Pandurang headed the Statistics Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Together, they traveled extensively. Indumati wrote the book "Badalate Jeevan" (Changing Times), a compilation of fascinating short stories based on her experiences from all over the world.

The Indumati Sukhatme RISE Scholarship will both honor her life and inspire others to contribute to the new RISE Scholarships at IUPUI by putting emphasis on the growing importance of supporting international experiences for today's students.

Recent events involving visitors from abroad and exchange visits highlight IUPUI's vital role in fostering internationalization for the city and state.
IUPUI receives more student applications from Hyderabad than any other city in India. It is also Indianapolis's sister-city in India. So, when Mayor Greg Ballard welcomed Mayor Banda Karthika Reddy of Hyderabad for a visit, she and her delegation met not only with CEOs of BioCrossroads and TechPoint but also visited our School of Informatics and the Breast Cancer and Neuroblastoma Research Lab, illustrating India's special interest in technology and health and life sciences—both major IUPUI strengths.

We also hosted Governor Lu Zushan of Zhejiang Province from Indiana's sister-state in China. It is noteworthy that the delegation's visit was arranged by Stephen Akard, Director of International Development for the Indiana Economic Development Corporation—and a holder of three degrees earned at IUPUI (BA in Economics and French, School of Liberal Arts, in 1986 and the JD/MBA in 1989).

Gary Roberts, dean of the IU School of Law–Indianapolis, represented me at the 5th Confucius Institute World Conference in Beijing this month. The Confucius Institute in Indianapolis was established at IUPUI in 2007 and facilitates Chinese language teaching, arts and cultural programs, scholarships for study abroad, and exchange programs for students and faculty.

For example, the law school offers a summer program in Beijing hosted by Renmin University, our School of Education has sent student teachers, our business school has done research on Indiana’s economic development opportunities with China, our Center on Philanthropy collaborated with Peking University’s Center for Civil Society Studies, and a 14-member faculty delegation from IUPUI visited Sun Yat-Sen University to develop further partnerships in engineering and other fields. The 2011 China Study Abroad Program at Sun Yat-Sen University (May 13-June 10, 2011) is now accepting applications.

As you think through options for charitable gifts this year, please consider supporting opportunities for our students to benefit from international and other experiential learning opportunities. To endow a RISE Scholarship, donate online at http://impactcampaign.iupui.edu/ris exhaust.html. If you do make an end-of-the-year tax deductible contribution to IUPUI, don't forget your Indiana tax credit!