From the Desk of the Chancellor

Welcome Class of 2017!

Aug. 20, 2013
by Charles R. Bantz

The first year class has grown dramatically:

- Beginners are up 19.5%.
- In-state residents are up 19.4%
- Women students are up 29.2%
- Hispanic/Latino enrollees are up 34.0%
- Total U.S. Students of Color are up 16.7%
- Indiana 21st Century Scholars* are up 38.3%

This is great news! And this larger class will enjoy expanded high-impact practices that keep students engaged in their academic work, practice-based learning, and cocurricular activities — proven strategies that help keep students on track to graduation from day one.

University College (UC) is piloting two sections of a new two-semester, first-year seminar in fall 2013/spring 2014. UC also expanded the one-semester version to 45 sections for this fall (from 37 sections last fall).

Of all the students new to IUPUI this fall, about 1/3 will be transfer students. We are offering them a one-day orientation program to jump start their academic and career planning, called Transfer Connections. Peer mentors have also been trained to reach out to new transfer students.

U.S. News and World Report annually recognizes IUPUI for its Themed Learning Communities (TLCs). This year, we are offering 40 programs with a wide variety of topics.

To highlight IUPUI's strength in health sciences, we debut two new TLCs this fall: "Molecules into Medicine: The Chemical Biology of Life" and "Pandemics and Plagues: An Unusual Look at Health Care." The latter includes a service learning experience related to preparedness with the American Red Cross. Other TLCs, like "We Are All in This Together: Understanding Peace and Conflict in Contemporary Society," incorporate service through a one-day campus domestic violence forum. The TLC "Changing the World: Where Do I Start?" offers an exciting opportunity to explore how others have sought to make a difference in our world, locally, nationally, and globally. For a complete list of TLCs, go here.

* Income-eligible 7th and 8th graders who enroll in the 21st Century Scholars Program and fulfill a pledge of good citizenship are guaranteed to receive up to four years of undergraduate tuition at any participating public college or university in Indiana.

Comments? Write chancller@iupui.edu.

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