University Hall kick-off

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by Charles R. Bantz

Last Thursday we celebrated the symbolic ground breaking of University Hall. To be built at the corner of University Boulevard and New York Street, U Hall will be home to the IU Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. The IU School of Social Work will expand from the neighboring Education/Social Work building into U Hall.

In addition U Hall will be the first permanent home for the IUPUI administration. (For those of you who do not know, IUPUI’s administration has been located in the dental school, in the chancellor’s home, in the Curley’s Cleaners building, then in a “temporary” metal building, since 1974.) The new site will move me and my colleagues near the center of the campus and the thousands of students, faculty, and staff working within a 10 minute walk.

So Thursday was a special day. Trustees and students, chancellor emeritus Jerry Bepko and executive vice chancellor emeritus Bill Plater, faculty and staff, community leaders and friends, all gathered to celebrate this beginning.

Thursday was a special day because when we move into University Hall and ultimately the former Wishard buildings (which now are IU property) every school and operational unit will have a “permanent” building for a home.

Thursday was a special day, but we are not done. There is much more work ahead. But my thanks to all of you—visionaries and construction workers, faculty and staff, supporters in the state house, Bryan Hall, the AO building, and in my house—you have made it possible for us to serve Indianapolis and beyond. So that after 45 years as a campus it is possible to say, in the words of one of the world’s greatest speakers—Winston Churchill:

Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning. (20 November 1942)

So, let’s move forward. That is IUPUI’s commitment to Indiana and beyond.

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