From the Desk of the Chancellor

Taylor honorees

I want to congratulate this year’s recipients of the 2015 Dr. Joseph T. Taylor Award: Kathleen Surina Grove, director of the IUPUI Office for Women, and Simon J. Rhodes, professor and dean of the School of Science.

The Taylor Excellence in Diversity Award honors Joseph T. Taylor, the first dean of the School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI and a staunch advocate for diversity. Both Grove and Rhodes demonstrate leadership in academic and support programs, events, policies and activities that promote inclusion.

Grove has worked vigorously to build an environment on campus that is inclusive. Her voice is a powerful contribution to diversity for faculty, staff, students and the community. She has served on several search committees for major IUPUI appointments, including the vice-chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as well as the director of the Multicultural Center. Kathy has been a strong representative of the campus in her community involvement.

Grove is a member of the Chancellor’s Diversity Council, the Office of Equal Opportunity Council and the IU School of Medicine Women’s Advisory Board. Her focus has included inclusive curriculum, mentoring female students, coordination of Women’s History Month on campus and women’s empowerment programs, workshops and seminars.

Rhodes has consistently implemented creative strategies to increase representation of women and underrepresented minorities in faculty positions since he became dean in 2012.

Rhodes is responsible for implementing the first schoolwide policy addressing diversity in the School of Science. His initial “town hall”-type meetings in the department led to the formation of the highly effective School of Science Diversity Council.

Simon has hosted the Women in Science Forum, leading a panel discussion among academic and industry leaders on the topic of women in science, technology, engineering and math fields. Rhodes has facilitated his objectives for greater inclusion through fostering a supportive climate and advocating comprehensive mentoring within the School of Science.

Both of these exceptional members of the IUPUI family, Kathleen Surina Grove and Simon Rhodes, make this campus a better place for us all.

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