From the Desk of the Chancellor

The IMPACT of giving

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by Charles R. Bantz

"It's easier to take than to give. It's nobler to give than to take. The thrill of taking lasts a day. The thrill of giving lasts a lifetime." — Joan F. Marques

I’m excited about the upcoming launch of the 2015 Campus Campaign, an initiative that brings together IUPUI family in a tradition of annual giving that dates back to 1995. This year’s goal is to generate gifts of at least $3.5 million.

Each year, faculty, staff and retirees unite to make a difference for the campus. The appeal of the Campus Campaign for many is the opportunity for employees to direct their personal financial support to programs and areas of the campus they care most about.

Generous donations provide resources that are not available anywhere else. The theme of this year’s campaign is: “Now is Our Time.”

Mark your calendars! The campaign will get started next week with a two-day free coffee bar on campus: 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, in the atrium of the Van Nuys Medical Science Building and from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, in the main lobby of University Library.

The coffee bar will be casual and informal. There will be no formal program or speakers. It’s a great opportunity to mix and mingle, and chat with those directly involved in the campaign.

Faculty and staff are welcome to drop in both mornings. You will receive travel mugs with the Campus Campaign logo as well as complimentary tickets to either a men’s basketball game (Feb. 11) or women’s basketball game (Feb. 14) during homecoming week.

The IUPUI Campus Campaign shows the power of each individual. One person’s gift adds to another’s and another’s, building a significant amount very quickly. With each person doing what he or she can, we all make a big difference.

Faculty, staff and retirees may designate their gift to one of more than 1,500 campus accounts. In 2014, more than 900 accounts across the IUPUI campus benefited through the Campus Campaign.

Every year, I’m excited about choosing one gift account to feature. For 2015, it’s Paw’s Pantry Support Fund. This campus food pantry was created by IUPUI students to serve our students, faculty and staff.

Paw’s Pantry is a collaboration of campus and community partners fulfilling the need for an adequate food source for all members of our community. More information can be found on the Paw’s Pantry website.

The Campus Campaign continues through Dec. 31. Campaign co-chairs are Trudy Banta, senior advisor to the chancellor, representing faculty; and Zeb Davenport, vice chancellor, division of student affairs, who will represent staff. Each school/unit has a coordinator who helps facilitate the campaign in their own unit.

Former IUPUI Chancellor Gerald L. Bepko framed the campus campaign saying:

“This campus’s primary resource is its people. The Campaign for IUPUI is providing the resources the people of IUPUI need to excel at their missions and continue our progress to become one of the nation’s best urban campuses.”

We have accepted that charge over the past 12 years, taking this important investment to new levels with more than $3.6 million generated last year alone.
Our hope is that the 2015 campaign -- my last as chancellor -- will continue to build on that legacy in dramatic fashion.

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