Colleagues,

Winston Churchill once said, “There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction.” If you ask me, the change we experienced as a division on July 1st of this year has certainly put us on track in the right direction!

Every day I understand more clearly what a great opportunity lies ahead of us as the new Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management. I am excited about the opportunities ahead and the support that the synergy provides for students.

Whether it is state funding challenges, tough questions from the media, or increasing expectations from students and parents, we continue to rise to the occasion. I encourage each of you to allow the core values to direct your daily work:

- Student-centered service
- Partnerships focused on student learning
- Establishing an inclusive community
- Actively building collaborative relationships.

By staying focused on these key values, we will build a phenomenal class for Fall 2010. We CAN make a difference in the lives of students and impact student retention and persistence at NIU!

I hope you enjoy this fall edition of the Student Affairs & Enrollment Management eNewsletter. You’ll find timely updates about our UNIV 101 classes and the work of our Students’ Legal Assistance staff. Additionally, we re-cap the Women’s Resource Center’s 30th anniversary, a great reminder of our history and the difference our Division can make in the lives of others.

Happy Holidays to you all,

Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management

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Division Bids Farewell to Bob Burk

The Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management would like to thank Mr. Bob Burk for his twenty-three years of dedicated service to NIU. Bob assumed his current role as Director of Admissions in the fall of 1995. During his tenure at NIU he has been instrumental in working with Academic and Student Affairs units to develop and implement recruitment strategies and activities. These strategies include coordination of the annual multicultural reception for newly admitted students, collaboration with academic departments to develop “on the side” Open House special events, and development and implementation of the Office of Admissions communication plan for prospective and admitted students. Bob has contributed immeasurably to the success of NIU over the past twenty-three years; we thank him for his dedication and unflagging Huskie spirit, and wish him every success in the future.
Women’s Resource Center’s 30th Anniversary Celebration

The Women’s Resource Center celebrated its 30th Anniversary on September 3, 2009, with two distinct events. A luncheon honoring those instrumental in the founding of the Women’s Resource Center was held in the Holmes Student Center and attended by approximately 75 students and employees. Speakers included Sharon Howard, founding director; Cindy Ditzler of NIU Archives; Anne Kaplan, Vice President for Administration and University Outreach; and three students whose lives have been impacted through their work at the Women’s Resource Center. Display boards donated by Barbara Peters and archival documents about the Women’s Resource Center throughout its tenure on campus were an added attraction. A student-produced video outlining the history of the office, from its beginning as the Office of University Resources for Women through its current iteration as the Women’s Resource Center, was highlighted during the luncheon.

The Women’s Resource Center welcomed campus and community friends and supporters during an afternoon open house. Visitors toured the house, which was completely repainted in the last year to provide a fresh new look for students. Seven local businesses generously donated desserts for the more than 100 guests who attended the celebration. In a continuing effort to revitalize all of its services and facilities, the Women’s Resource Center asked for book donations from its Amazon.com wish list to update the lending library available to students, faculty, staff, and community members. Guests at the luncheon and the open house donated approximately $1,200 in new books for the Women’s Resource Center library. The Center’s staff was proud to look back at its history, while celebrating its current accomplishments and looking forward to a bright future.

Students’ Legal Assistance - Diversion Program

The Diversion Program (also called the Choices Program) is an initiative implemented by the DeKalb County State’s Attorney’s Office in April 2009. Mistakes made in college that result in a criminal record can have significant implications for future success. This initiative, available to NIU students, provides an alternative means of resolving cases that involve first-time, non-violent criminal offenses.

If accepted into the program, the offender is mandated to enter a guilty plea and may also be required to perform community service, pay a program fee, write a letter of apology to the victim, undergo alcohol or drug counseling, or be subject to random testing. In return, upon successful completion of the program, the guilty plea is removed and the charges are dismissed. In addition, the offender can file for an immediate expungement of his or her record, a process that typically takes up to five or more years. The expedited expungement process allows students to clear their criminal record quickly and remove a significant barrier to their career and personal success.
**UNIV Courses**

This fall, NIU offered 91 sections of UNIV 101 and 201 (The University Experience) taught by 83 instructors and assisted by 73 Peer Instructors. 1,762 first-year students enrolled in UNIV 101, which represents 58% of the entering freshman class, and 124 transfer students enrolled in UNIV 201. The combined total of 1,886 marks the highest number of students enrolled in these seminars since the program began at NIU in the late 1980s.

Courses such as UNIV 101 and 201 have been coined “a flexible fixture in higher education” by John N. Gardner, President of the John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education and Executive Director of the Policy Center on the First Year of College. At NIU, specialized sections of the course are offered to Health and Human Sciences students, CHANCE students, business majors, honors students, and military veterans, allowing instructors to tailor the course to the needs of distinct populations.

Another sign of institutional commitment is the “Strengthening the First Year of College” Midwest drive-in conference which took place Friday, September 25, at NIU. Approximately 200 colleagues from the Midwest attended the event, which had as its sub-theme “Embracing Collaborative Partnerships.” Betsy O. Barefoot, Co-Director of the National Policy Center on the First Year of College, gave the plenary address, and John N. Gardner gave the keynote.

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**Admissions Open House**

Over 2,200 guests attended the NIU open house on November 11th, marking the 4th largest Veterans’ Day Open House, and the largest mid-week crowd NIU has ever attracted.

Students and their families had opportunities to tour the campus and residence halls, speak to academic advisors, and meet with many academic and student support offices such as financial aid, housing, scholarships, and student clubs and organizations. Many colleges and departments offered additional receptions, lab tours, and presentations. Open House events such as these are one of the most important steps students and their families take in making the decision about where to attend college.

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Interested in submitting a story for the division eNewsletter? Contact Adam Neal at aneal5@niu.edu or 815-753-6257.