Dear Colleagues,

I would like to begin by thanking all of those who were able to attend the State of the Division Address on October 7. This program continues to act as a compass for our Division throughout the academic year. During the address, I challenged each of you to continue your growth as responsive leaders. Please consider what responsive leadership means to you and the work that you do every day. It is only through our individual commitment to the students we serve everyday that we can collectively progress as a division.

I also shared six divisional priorities that anchor our commitment to responsive leadership:

- Improving student services via technology
- Organizing and launching our first major gifts initiative
- Publishing the Enrollment Management Strategic Plan
- Improving campus life through renovations and new facilities
- Renewing our commitment to the Division’s vision, mission, and core values
- Instituting a new, annual award

These divisional priorities cannot be accomplished without the dedication of each member of the Division. Therefore, I urge each of you to aspire to greatness in your individual role within the organization.

Please enjoy this Fall 2010 edition of the Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management eNewsletter. You will find details on several changes taking place across the Division—changes that highlight our dedication to being responsive to the needs of our students. Also included are tips on assisting students with the financial aid process and an update on two former Student Affairs & Enrollment Management staff members who have had recent commendable successes.

Sincerely,

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

Assisting Students in Successfully Navigating the Financial Aid Process

The Student Financial Aid Office appreciates that students often turn to faculty and staff with concerns regarding financing their educational expenses. With spring registration just around the corner, you may be hearing from students who have an outstanding balance of more than $500.00 with the Bursar’s Office and, therefore, have a financial hold on their account. A financial hold will restrict a student’s ability to register for the spring term. The Student Financial Aid Office and the Bursar’s Office work closely to help ensure that students have the knowledge of resources needed to overcome these financial obstacles. In September, the Bursar’s Office began reaching out to these students through mailings and NIU student e-mail communications. They are encouraging students to make an appointment to see a Tuition Counselor in the Bursar’s Office. Tuition Counselors, as well as Student Financial Aid Counselors and Advisors, are available to review with each student their individual situation. They will assess what, if any, financial aid options remain open to the student.

Student Financial Aid Office
Bursar’s Office
Reminders and Updates to Share with Students

The Early Bird Catches…
Students must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) www.fafsa.gov each academic year to be considered for most financial aid programs.

- March 1, 2011, is the NIU priority date for filing the FAFSA. Applications continue to be accepted and processed after March 1, but it is important to note that some financial aid funds run out quickly, so early filing is encouraged.

- Illinois State Monetary Award Program (MAP) Grant requires early filing of the FAFSA. The MAP Grant suspension date for 2010–2011 was April 19, 2010.

- It is acceptable for students and parents to estimate their 2010 federal tax information on the 2010–2011 FAFSA and to update it to the actual amounts at a later date.

- Students should closely monitor their NIU student e-mail and MyNIU for updates and notifications of additional documentation that may be requested once their FAFSA has been received.

Hip, Hip, Hurray…
Huskie Installment Plan (HIP) is a new payment option that allows students to spread their NIU semester expenses over four equal monthly payments. http://www.niu.edu/bursar/payments/HIP.shtml

- Financial Aid recipients may charge books and supplies to their Bursar’s account at either campus bookstore for a limited time at the start of each semester. Students are responsible for covering these charges either with financial aid or by paying out of pocket if their financial aid has been exhausted. http://www.niubookstore.niu.edu/SiteText.aspx?id=1273

- Students will find help sheets and online tutorials to assist them with navigating MyNIU. http://www.niu.edu/myniutraining/training/student_training.shtml

Eligibility Tips
- Financial aid does not cover audit and remedial (e.g., Math 097) classes.

- Students must be enrolled at least half-time at NIU to be eligible for the Stafford Loan program.

- Grant programs prorate according to each program’s enrollment rules.

Rights and Responsibilities
Division Welcomes New Office

IU’s new Military Student Services is an excellent example of the University’s commitment to veterans and their classmates who are still in the military.

Located in Gilbert Hall B-111, the office “provides those students with a one-stop place to go with questions on available services and programs,” said Kelly Wesener, NIU assistant vice president for student services.

“We provide services such as academic support, mental health assessment, and individual advocacy,” Wesener said. “We opened this office after recognizing that more and more veterans are returning to college campuses. NIU is committed to ensuring that their needs are met so that they can reach their academic goals.”

Approximately 800 veterans attend NIU, and nearly 700 veterans receive military educational benefits.

The new office is being positively received by veterans and student soldiers of all ranks and ages. Jose Alferez, president of the NIU Veterans Club, said, “We have veterans on campus who served in the Gulf War. Many have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Many of them don’t know where to go when they have questions about benefits or if they have problems with their classes. This will certainly help.” Alferez also noted that NIU has a long-standing reputation of supporting veterans and students in the military. “We’re proud of the services we offer our students,” said Scott Peska, director of NIU’s Military Student Services. “With the new office, we’ll have an opportunity to better coordinate our services and meet the unique needs of veterans. For example, for students who are in the military and are deployed in the middle of a semester, we’ll help them work with their instructors and navigate the withdrawal procedure and re-entry process so that they won’t lose progress toward earning an NIU degree.”

Currently, veteran financial aid benefits are still being processed in Swen Parson Hall 245K. That operation will join Military Student Services in Gilbert Hall later this semester.

Dialogue on Diversity Program Initiative

The Division’s Dialogue on Diversity (DoD) program initiative is in its third year. This initiative encourages student groups and organizations to share personal experiences and cultivate leadership abilities that promote better understanding and relationships within the diverse student population in the campus community. This nationally recognized and award-winning program has expanded into the classroom. In addition to the current faculty and staff facilitators, 18 student cofacilitators have been recently trained to go into the classroom and to engage students in a dialogue about the importance of creating an inclusive campus community. Nearly 50 UNIV 101 peer instructors connected to the Office of Orientation have been trained as well. Both 50- and 75-minute class sessions have been designed to lead the dialogue and to promote participation in the two-hour evening programs that will occur throughout the semester.
Where Are They Now?

Have you ever wondered where our staff members go after their time at NIU? More than a few have continued to excel in the field of student affairs and enrollment management. Two of those individuals are Nolan Davis and Monica Treviño. The Division is proud to share with you a few of their latest accomplishments.

During his time at NIU, Nolan Davis served in many capacities. Along with being an NIU alum, he was an area coordinator for Housing & Dining, an advisor for the Student Association and Greek Life, and assistant to the Vice President and President. In 2008, Nolan accepted a position as director of student activities and organizations at Indiana State University (ISU). In this position, he instituted several new initiatives aimed at expanding leadership training and increasing involvement in student organizations. A recent restructuring of the Division of Student Affairs at ISU has brought new opportunities and challenges for Nolan.

Beginning in August 2010, Nolan was appointed associate vice president for student affairs. In this new capacity, he oversees student publications and recreational sports, and he advises the Student Government Association and the Union Board. He will continue oversight of student activities and organizations until a successor is named. Nolan will also chair a council aimed at improving campus-wide programming efforts and will oversee budget tracking and assessment for the division.

Monica Treviño began working at NIU in 2003. Her first position on campus was as assistant director of the Latino Resource Center. This was followed by serving briefly as an assistant director for residential facilities, and from 2005 to 2008, she was associate director of Student Involvement & Leadership Development. Monica fondly remembers her time spent with the committed professionals and energetic students at NIU. One of her favorite memories is her first year of Huskies Helping Huskies. She was worried that there would be too few volunteers to fill all of the time slots. But, she says, “In true Huskie fashion, from students to faculty to staff, all of our welcome tents had cheerful and welcoming volunteers for our new students.”

In 2008, Monica accepted a position as dean of students at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. Approximately a year after starting, through an administrative reorganization, Monica became the vice president for enrollment management. In this position she oversees several areas including Admissions, Housing, Financial Aid, Athletics, Campus Safety and Security, Counseling, Health Services, Intramurals, Career Services, A.D.A Services, Parents’ Association, Judicial, and Student Development. One reporter wrote, “Treviño does not seem like the typical dean or vice president of a university. She is young, pleasant, and welcoming. She cares for the students and their needs. She is passionate about her work and possesses an enviable work ethic.”

We are proud of the accomplishments of Nolan and Monica, and we wish them the best of luck in the future.

Office of Judicial Affairs Undergoes Significant Changes

Judicial Affairs has undergone comprehensive internal and external reviews to examine the program philosophy, Student Code of Conduct, function of the Judicial Advisory Board, and educational outcomes for students. Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management and Department of Judicial Affairs staff members labored for 18 months to enhance the overall educational experience of students as they traverse the conduct process.

Effective August 16, 2010, Judicial Affairs changed its name to the Office of Community Standards & Student Conduct. Its primary focus is to administer sanctions focused on obtaining educational outcomes that are not punitive in nature. Additional information regarding the educational philosophy, informational brochures and documents, and the new Student Code of Conduct was released at the beginning of the fall semester.