Alumni Talking with State Legislators

Indiana University alumni all have a compelling and strong message to share with their respective state legislators about the importance of Indiana University and higher. The more than 200,000 IU alumni in our state can combine as an incredible voice for support of the university’s budget requests and initiatives in 2005–2007. Our public officials are interested in hearing your personal story of how a degree from Indiana University has spurred economic growth now and certainly into the future. By sharing this information, you are letting your legislators know that you are NOT a part of the brain drain, but a part of the brain gain.

Here are a few “key” messages to convey to legislators:

• Thank you for your past support of Indiana University and higher education in the state of Indiana.
• Indiana has a great system of higher education, producing Fulbright Scholars, Rhodes Scholars, Nobel Prize and Pulitzer Prize winners, and MacArthur Genius Award recipients. It has nationally ranked schools and departments.
• IU is committed to providing quality education that is accessible for all qualified students. We share the General Assembly’s commitment to affordability, accessibility, and mobility in education.
• Higher education is a proven leader in providing sustainable economic development within the state, especially from institutions such as IU that provide extensive research programming.

Here are some basic tips regarding contacting your legislators or paying a personal visit:

• Be calm and do not feel intimidated. You are a taxpayer and a voter.
• Be respectful; do not argue.
• Be concise, and do not overstay your welcome.
• Remember that all politics are local.
• Leave a handwritten note.

Tips for writing your elected official:

• Be sure to date your mail and include your name, address, and phone number.
• Be brief; stay focused on the issue.
• Be certain about your documentation.
• Be friendly, candid, and personal.
• Express appreciation for the legislator’s service and ask for a reply. Put a date on your calendar for an anticipated reply.

*Inform the HHE staff of your correspondence, so we can track communication

For more information on making communicating with state officials, visit our Government Relations and Hoosiers for Higher Education Web site at www.gov.indiana.edu/hhe.

—Debbie Sibbitt
Director, Hoosiers for Higher Education