Message from the Chancellor

At the writing of this self-study, Indiana University East is preparing to celebrate its 40th anniversary. It has been an exciting forty years! With grassroots origins in the Richmond community, IU East has grown to meet the needs of those who put their trust in the university, adapting through changing times to continue to provide quality educational experiences and service to our region, and extending our reach to the world through online education. Billboards throughout the community say it best: IU-Focused on YOU!

Throughout this self-study, we will paint a picture of Indiana University East as it is today, through the lens of history, and a view toward a rich future. Of particular note is the rather dramatic transformation of mission that the campus has experienced over the past four years. Following declining enrollments for a number of years leading to a significant dip in the fall of 2006, Indiana University commissioned a review of IU East and its future prospects. I was hired to be interim chancellor in July 2007 to lead the transformation that was suggested. We dropped all associate degrees, discontinued all remedial/developmental courses, and ramped up admission standards to better ensure that students had the potential to be successful without remediation. We added more bachelor’s degree programs and selected graduate programs. We went quickly and deeply into online programming.

I have heard it said that, if it were not for its name and the buildings, IU East would be almost unrecognizable from what it was in 2006. Our enrollments are at an all time high, our retention rates have been increasing, and we had the largest number of graduates in our history this past year. We now have intercollegiate athletics, a highly visible mascot, a new approach to marketing and recruitment, an active University College, a Mathematics Center, a Writing Center, Retention Programs, a mandatory First Year Seminar, vibrant student activities and campus life, and the list goes on. The move away from our original mission as a community college has allowed a strong collaboration with Ivy Tech Community College with which we share a campus and many services.

Our first graduate program started in 2007. We now have two implemented master’s degree programs and two in the final HLC approval stage. We have seven approved online degree completion programs and are seeking approval for another. We have a living strategic plan on which we have made significant progress. Our participation in the HLC Academy for the Assessment of Student Learning has been successful, and our assessment efforts are now integrated into the way we deliver education. You can tell that I am quite proud of what IU East, its faculty and staff, have accomplished in such a short period of time.

Today, with a clear mission, defined direction, and growing momentum, we focus on achieving the goals set out in our strategic plan. We welcome you to the campus and look forward to learning what you might identify as next steps we could take to advance ourselves even further. I appreciate your time and effort. If there is anything at all that we can do to make your visit more comfortable or productive, please let us know.

Nasser H. Paydar

Indiana University East