This semester alone, we have experienced unprecedented growth and support from the community as we develop new academic programs and forge partnerships that will improve the economy of east central Indiana.

In this newsletter, I will share some of the exciting progress we are making and provide updates throughout the school year.

ENROLLMENT NEARING 3,000 STUDENTS
Student enrollment continues to grow at a remarkable level. This semester, we welcomed a record 2,924 students to campus. That’s 477 more students – nearly 20 percent more – than last fall.

The incoming freshman class of 400 new beginners is also the largest ever, a 22 percent increase from last year’s group. What’s more, 88 percent of the freshman class entered as traditional students.

The quality of students is increasing as well. For example, there was a 24 percent increase in the number of new students with Academic Honors diplomas.

The growth is spread throughout all of our academic schools. Overall graduate enrollment has risen by about 64 percent compared to last year, which includes the Master of Science in Education and Master of Social Work programs.

We are among the fastest-growing campuses in the state, proof that area residents are responding to the quality of the programs that we offer here.

CAMPUS RECEIVES LARGEST-EVER GIFT
Retired Richmond businessman Tom Raper has committed $2.17 million to IU East, the campus’ largest-ever gift. On October 13, we renamed Middlefork Hall as Tom Raper Hall in recognition of his exceptional generosity.

His gift will allow us to expand academic programs, make capital improvements and enhance student life opportunities for generations to come.
Mr. Raper has long been a supporter of this campus having served on the IU East Board of Advisors since 1993. In 1991, he established the Tom Raper Scholarship to benefit students who are committed to building their success in east central Indiana. Over 90 scholarships have been awarded from the endowment.

**CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION**

There are plenty of other signs of progress on campus, too. We announced a beautification initiative this summer that will improve student life on campus.

On June 16, we had a *Celebration of Campus and Community* on the lawn of Springwood Hall, to announce the initiative. It was an honor to have so many of you there.

More than 100 trees have been planted around IU East's inner campus and a community garden has been established. The renovation of the Whitewater Hall patio is now complete, as is construction of a new walkway to Hayes Hall. Work has also begun on a cross country course and nature trail.

Plans are also in the works for a sculpture garden across campus, which will feature the work of student, faculty, regional and national artists.

With dollars saved from not having a traditional chancellor installation, dollars raised from alumni and friends through this initiative, and dollars matched by the university, we now have $250,000 to enhance the campus.

**EXPANDING OUR REACH IN SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA**

This summer, we announced a major expansion to bring baccalaureate education to southeastern Indiana at our regional center at Ivy Tech Southeast's Lawrenceburg Riverfront campus.

Through an innovative partnership with Ivy Tech, we are now offering four degree completion programs, including Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies, Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Now, students who have completed an associate degree in business, education, communication or nursing, can continue their course of study to earn an IU bachelor’s degree in Lawrenceburg. Students in the elementary education program will be able to complete requirements for licensure by the state of Indiana. These programs will also serve students who transfer from other institutions.

We have plans to bring additional degree programs to Lawrenceburg, including a master’s degree program in education.

**ARE YOU TWEETING?**

Follow me on Twitter! I started using the popular social networking service several months ago to better communicate all of the remarkable things that are happening on campus. In fact, I was the first university president or chancellor in the country to use Twitter.

You can follow my updates, along with many other members of the IU East community, at iue.edu/twitter.