BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 25, 2009

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

As Congress begins work on the Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations process, I ask that funds be included in the federal budget for three initiatives at Ball State University. I am aware that the practice of Congressional earmarking has come under increased scrutiny in recent years, and appreciate your leadership to restore public confidence in the process. Ball State University has carefully evaluated each of the following projects to ensure that they are in the public interest and worthy of your advocacy.

McKinley / Riverside Avenue Safety Improvement Project - $6.4 million

Ball State University seeks federal assistance in the FY10 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill to complete construction of the McKinley / Riverside Avenue Safety Improvement Project. Originally authorized by Congress in 1998, the project's goal is to eliminate the dangerous mix of vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the center of the Ball State campus. Phase I of the project was completed in 2005, and Phase II of the project was completed in 2006.

Bowen Center for Public Affairs - $1.2 million

Ball State University seeks federal assistance in the FY10 Labor, Health & Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill to support the Bowen Center for Public Affairs. Named to honor former Indiana Governor, Otis R. Bowen, the Center will provide workshops on civic education, conduct research into best practices in government management, and offer training to local elected officials with the goal of improving services to the public.

Nurse Training Program - $1.7 million

Ball State University seeks federal assistance in the FY10 Labor, Health & Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill to expand the capacity of Ball State's School of Nursing and help reduce the shortage of nurses in Indiana. The

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U.S. Department of Health and Humans Services estimates that Indiana will experience a shortage of 18,000 nurses by the year 2020. The project seeks to address this shortage by fielding a mobile classroom / simulation laboratory. The mobile unit will feature state-of-the-art "human patient simulators." These advanced, computer-controlled mannequins can simulate a wide variety of physiological and pharmacological conditions. In making such advanced training available in rural and underserved communities throughout Indiana, Ball State will help enable currently employed licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and certified nurse assistants (CNAs) to obtain baccalaureate degrees without leaving their full-time jobs.

I appreciate your consideration of each of these requests. Should you have any questions regarding these items, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Gora, Ph.D.
President