



**Indiana State  
University**

*More. From day one.*

*Office of the President*

February 17, 2009

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812-237-4000  
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The Honorable Richard Lugar  
United States Senate  
306 Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

As Congress begins the Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations process, Indiana State University (ISU) respectfully submits for your consideration the Rural Health Educational Enhancement Program.

Recently, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration reported that Indiana has 44 federally designated primary care shortage areas; 25 of those are in rural counties. Eight of those rural counties are in the local West Central Indiana Area Health Education Center area where ISU is located.

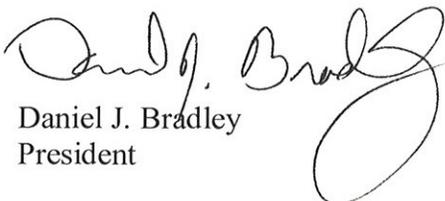
Accordingly, ISU has recently formed a new College of Nursing, Health and Human Services (CNHHS). The intent was to bring the majority of the university's medical and health and human services programs together to improve communications, enhance interdisciplinary collaborations, increase enrollment, and nurture relationships with public and private medical, health, and human service entities. All of the current programs in the college can be best described as serving in the prevention, intervention, or rehabilitation of human health and wellness issues. The college and the university are strongly committed to exploring and implementing new medical, allied health and human services programs that are in critical shortage for the region, state, and nation. Several of the new programs being considered include: Physicians Assistant, Physical Therapy, Podiatry, and Health Care Administration. All of these programs have severe overall shortages of qualified providers especially in rural areas.

Concurrently, ISU is a founding member of the "Rural Health Innovation Collaborative" (RHIC), comprised of Union Hospital and its Lugar Center for Rural Health, Indiana University School of Medicine-Terre Haute, Ivy Tech Community College, the Terre Haute Economic Development Corporation and the City of Terre Haute. These entities have joined forces with a mission to create more community health care training and job opportunities with a special emphasis on producing medical and allied health practitioners for the rural health setting. The potential for enhanced curriculum, instruction, clinical training, and scholarship as a result of the interdisciplinary alliances established because of the simultaneous genesis of the CNHHS and the RHIC affords opportunities that are profound in their implication. A careful and judicious selection, establishment and implementation of highly-desirable, critically-needed, new medical, health care, and human services educational programs will address the profound shortages in rural health settings.

The establishment of these critically-needed rural health programs will allow Indiana State University to address the local, state and national demands. In addition, with a rural educational emphasis the college is more likely to attract students, faculty, and support that will allow continued development and growth. Ultimately, in addition to providing high paying and sustainable jobs, the graduates of these programs will improve the access and therefore the health and wellness of our rural community.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Bradley  
President