This past year at IPFW has been filled with works in progress. We continue our pursuit of academic excellence through new programs and enhanced course offerings. Our construction projects are at various points between groundbreaking and dedication. Our NCAA Division I athletics programs continue to mature. We have continued to nurture IPFW’s many bonds with communities and industries in northeast Indiana. Our faculty continues to distinguish itself through teaching and research. And our students continue to be outstanding, both in their contributions to IPFW and the achievements they carry into their futures.

Through all of this “continuing,” a theme of momentum emerges. Motion that has both velocity and direction, progress that is driven by strategic planning. Behind each of the accomplishments in the pages that follow, I hope you’ll see what I believe to be IPFW’s greatest gift to students, faculty, staff, and the community: the ability to move people forward.
IPFW men and women continue to gain momentum in The Summit League Conference as both athletes and scholars. Sixty-two IPFW athletes were named to the Summit League Commissioner’s List of Academic Excellence this past spring, and 52 were recognized as Academic All-League Honors in fall 2008. IPFW senior Crystal Martinez was named to the U.S. Track & Field Cross-Country Coaches Association All-Academic Team; sophomore Amy Recht was recognized as The Summit League Women’s Tennis Player of the Year. And golfer Patrick Kelley was named to the 2009 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America At-Large Third Team, elected by the College Sports Information Directors of America.
As the only public university in northeast Indiana, IPFW offers access to world-class academic opportunities. Approximately two-thirds of our undergraduate students are the first generation in their families to attend college. This statistic, alone, reflects the enormous impact IPFW has on the future of our region.

As part of our commitment to lowering the barriers for education, IPFW now offers more than 150 online courses and 60 weekend courses. This past year, we established the Accelerated MBA program, enabling students to acquire a Master’s of Business Administration in 11 months while attending mostly weekend classes.

IPFW students continue to demonstrate their ability to compete academically with students around the country. This past year, they participated in faculty-student research projects, presented articles at major conferences and symposia, secured prestigious fellowships and internships, and numerous graduates were accepted into Ph.D. programs at major universities.

This fall semester, we welcome the first class of Chapman Scholars, four top high school graduates who come to IPFW with excellent academic records and commitments to leadership and community service.
As the new Medical Education Center nears completion, we are prepared to welcome the first third-year medical students to the program. This means students may now complete all four years of medical school in Fort Wayne without having to go elsewhere for the final two years. We anticipate this will help northeast Indiana retain the highly qualified health care professionals needed to serve its communities.

The Holiday Inn at IPFW opened for business last November and has been a tremendous asset, both to the university and the community at large. Its operations are gradually being integrated into the Hospitality Management program, which has doubled in students the past three years.

Construction is also underway on additional student housing. By August 2010, IPFW will have housing for 1,200 students. In addition, the Holiday Inn at IPFW, the PLEX, and the Hefner Soccer Fields are all now connected to the Main Campus by the new Ron Venderly Family Bridge, which spans the St. Joseph River.
Spring semester 2009 was an exciting time on the IPFW campus, as we played host to 55 selections from the Remnant Trust collection of historically significant manuscripts and first- and early-edition documents. Ten committees, totaling 60 people, dedicated countless hours to shaping and presenting the program. They developed the title, “Controversial Documents That Have Changed History” and grouped the exhibit into seven theme areas: The Development of the American Character; Advancing the Rights of Humanity; The Dark Side of Humanity; Religious Revolutions; Women and Power; Science, Culture, and Society; and Business and Ethics.

Thanks to the generosity of the Madge Rothschild Foundation, The Goldstine Foundation, the Indiana Humanities Council and the Courthouse Preservation Trust, The Remnant Trust at IPFW became the focal point of a wide range of activities. Thirteen courses were developed around the documents. IPFW welcomed thousands of visitors from the community and hundreds of K-12 students on field trips at no cost to their schools. Actors portrayed seven historical characters to help bring the manuscripts to life. And three related Omnibus presentations drew record attendance: Hal Holbrook, Sandra Day O’Connor, and A.J. Jacobs. The Remnant Trust organization has expressed that IPFW’s semester-long celebration was a model program for its success in generating meaningful dialog and community-wide interest.
It is no secret that I look forward to the time when IPFW is home to 15,000 students. It is a goal that guides us in our long-term planning to expand housing, re-engineer traffic flow and upgrade older facilities. In the short term, work has begun on the new Student Services Complex. This $42.4 million project will connect the Helmke Library, Walb Student Union, and Gates Sports Center—all of which were built when the student body was half its current size. The facility will include 173,000 square feet of new construction and feature an activity center, a ballroom, collaborative learning areas, new classrooms, an international student center, and a state-of-the-art indoor track that will accommodate up to 1,500 spectators. This complex will become the heart of the campus with its bookstore and gathering places. I look forward to sharing updates as work progresses.

Students come to IPFW as teenagers hurtling toward adulthood or as adults hoping for a better career and brighter future. By providing a first-rate education, a vibrant campus life, connections to community, and paths to service, IPFW gives each of them momentum in going forward. Indeed, through all of our endeavors, IPFW provides momentum — and the ability to sustain it.

Michael A. Wartell
Chancellor