AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ALL STUDENT BORROWERS

Continued escalation in student default rates across the country threatens to have a detrimental impact on students’ access to federal financial aid. With this in mind, Indiana University has encouraged all of its campuses to curtail their default rates. As a way to comply with that directive, **beginning with the fall 2014 semester and all future semesters, IU Northwest has joined other IU campuses in delaying the disbursement of financial aid funds until the second week of classes. This means the first possible day that the Bursar’s office will start releasing refunds for Fall 2015 is Monday, Aug. 31. In addition, federal regulations now require 30-day delayed disbursal for all first-time student loan borrowers.**

How will this help reduce student debt and default rates? Because when we wait until the second week of classes to disburse funds, the aid that students receive is based on the classes they are actually attending, rather than the classes they thought they’d attend when they first registered. This means that if students withdraw from some or all of their classes they will end up borrowing less.

Students should plan to pay for books either out of pocket or elect to utilize the new RedHawk card to purchase books at our Barnes and Noble bookstore. The RedHawk card comes preloaded with $600 for this purpose. For more information about how to use the RedHawk card, please visit: [www.iun.edu/redhawk-card/](http://www.iun.edu/redhawk-card/).

Although we understand that this change may be challenging for students who are accustomed to receiving their financial aid dollars earlier, we are pleased to note that Indiana University’s efforts are already helping students to reduce their borrowing and indebtedness.