The IU Northwest campus will host its IU Life Sciences Week of Jan. 22-29. This week will feature a variety of events and activities that will highlight the contributions of the Life Sciences to our understanding of the world. The week will include a blood drive, a cultural celebration, and a tour of the Savannah Center for Contemporary Art.

The blood drive will be held on Monday, Jan. 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Savannah Auditorium. This is a chance for students and faculty to contribute to a good cause and to support the American Red Cross.

The cultural celebration, Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, will be held on Sunday, Jan. 16, at 3 p.m. in the Savannah Auditorium. This celebration will include performances by the IU African American Choral Ensemble and Troy Thomas, who will present the "I Have a Dream" speech. The event is free and open to the public.

IU Life Sciences Week is sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Office of Cultural Diversity and Learning, and the Minority Studies Department.

This is the first of a two-part series reporting on the results of the Strategic Planning Team's (SPT) fall 2004 retreat. This issue will focus primarily on the recently completed and future AQIP projects at IU Northwest and the role AQIP plays in all Outcome initiatives.

Nearing the end of a busy, yet successful year, the SPT held its fall retreat in South Bend Nov. 9-12, attended by 22 members, consisting of incoming, outgoing and continuing members. With many important matters to discuss, the team determined a list of priorities and focused on those issues during the three-day meeting.

In brief, the progress toward the 2004 and 2010 outcomes was reviewed, and 2005 goals were set. The role of the outcome chairs and their responsibilities and accountabilities were discussed and substantiated, as well as those of their corresponding support structures. Guidelines were established for the campus Facilities Planning Committee. The strategic areas of focus for the Shared Vision initiative were reviewed and revised. For a more detailed report of the retreat’s proceedings, visit the SPT’s Web site: http://www.iun.edu/~spcnw/retreat/.

WHAT IS AQIP?

While many important issues were discussed during the retreat, recently completed AQIP projects were also reviewed and three two-year AQIP projects were agreed upon.

AQIP began in July 1999 with a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts. AQIP infuses the principles and benefits of continuous improvement into the culture of colleges and universities. This is done by providing an alternative process through which an already-accredited institution can maintain its accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission. With AQIP, an institution can demonstrate that it meets accreditation standards and expectations through a sequence of events that are parallel with those ongoing activities that characterize organizations who strive to improve their performance.

COMPLETED AQIP PROJECTS

There were three recently completed AQIP projects at IU Northwest. The first is Intervention for First Year Students: The Freshman Experience. With this project, the Office of Admissions collaborated with all academic divisions to offer three New Student Orientation Sessions specifically tailored to parents were offered as well. New mathematics placement tests were devised and administered for the first time this past fall. A team of faculty, staff and administrators is currently working on the Indiana Project for Academic Success (IPAS), which is used to gauge the success of some of our retention programs, such as Supplemental Instruction and the Critical Literacy Program.

The second project currently in progress is Beyond Freshman Year: Improving Academic and Career Advising. A workshop was given "Focusing on Successful Advising," which 30 participants attended. One hundred twenty-four members of the faculty and staff have been trained on the use of the new SIS system during 22 training sessions, which used a training guide developed by the SIS Project Analyst. The participants were trained in providing academic advising and related student services.

These two projects serve to provide the faculty, staff and administration with the information they need to accurately assess student retention and advising problems. By evaluating this criterion, they are able, via the tools and techniques learned during the training sessions, to enhance existing programs so as to increase student retention rates. By utilizing the new advising methods, students can be efficiently and effectively guided through the academic process with as much information and person-to-person help as possible.

The third AQIP project was Increasing the Technological Capabilities of Faculty, Staff and Administrators. This project was concerned mainly with providing greater awareness and knowledge of the technological services provided on campus.
as an integral part of the education process as a whole; from the design of the instruction, through the evaluation process, to advising and financial aid, to the increasing use of technology in the classroom. The demand for the use of the 20 multimedia classroom spaces that allow instructors to present, give feedback, and communicate with students, has risen from 38 percent to 43 percent in the last year alone.

PROPOSED AQIP PROJECTS

After reviewing the current projects, the SPT moved ahead with three new projects that will be developed over the next two years. Outcomes 2, 4, and 7 were chosen as the foundations for the new projects.

IU Northwest provides a philosophy that advocates that 2014 graduates will be fully prepared for life-long learning, ethical practice, developing successful careers, and effective citizenship. The goals of Outcome 2 echo those values. To that end, Outcome 2 was chosen as an AQIP project, with the purpose of identifying factors that will allow faculty and staff to evaluate students’ preparation in these areas. The Outcome 4 initiative focuses on IU Northwest’s commitment to diversity as a significant element in its pursuit of academic excellence. To further that goal, the second AQIP project that was chosen during the retreat will concern itself with moving IU Northwest to a formalized process for recognizing, retaining and developing a more diverse faculty, and will develop a similar process for staff and administrators.

IU Northwest is committed to academically excellence, cultural diversity, superior service and to providing a wide array of opportunities for students of all backgrounds to become involved in campus life. Student-Centered Principles guide the decisions of the administration, faculty and staff in order to ensure that the students of IU Northwest benefit in every possible way. The AQIP project chosen for Outcome 7 will center on developing an assessment strategy that can be used to support the Student-Centered Principles. Each unit will also develop individual and unit measurements that document compliance with those principles.

While these projects are ongoing developments, they are only the first step of AQIP’s three-step process. As a quality assurance program, AQIP uses three distinct cycles that occur simultaneously. Each cycle has different time constraints and very different processes.

The first cycle is the Strategy cycle, which is four years in duration. During that time, IU Northwest will create and maintain a Systems Portfolio describing the main systems and processes that were used to achieve its goals and the performance results that were garnered from them. A system appraisal tool that can be used to determine what approaches can be used to move IU Northwest closer to achieving its goals.

The second cycle of the AQIP project is the Action cycle and is a yearlong process. The second cycle is the Strategy cycle, which is four years in duration. During that time, IU Northwest will create and maintain a Systems Portfolio describing the main systems and processes that were used to achieve its goals and the performance results that were garnered from them. A system appraisal tool that can be used to determine what approaches can be used to move IU Northwest closer to achieving its goals.

The final step in the Accreditation cycle, whereby evidence from both the action cycles and strategy cycles will demonstrate that IU Northwest is prepared to comply with the Higher Learning Commission’s Criteria for Accreditation.

Implementing AQIP through the Shared Vision initiative demonstrates that IU Northwest is committed to achieving academic excellence in all areas of campus life.

2005 Shared Vision Outcome

| Outcome 1 | Chair: Dave Kilman | 219/980-6813 | dkilman@iun.edu |
| Outcome 2 | Chair: Dorothy Igo | (later Margaret Slurka) | 219/980-6966; dive@iun.edu |
| Outcome 3 | Chair: Kenneth Cooper | 219/980-6964; kecoopwo@iun.edu |
| Outcome 4 | Chair: Denise Travis | 219/981-5618; dtravis@iun.edu |
| Outcome 5 | Chair: Anna Ronomig | 219/980-6636; aronomig@iun.edu |
| Outcome 6 | Chair: Patii Lundberg | 219/980-6970; plundberg@iun.edu |
| Outcome 7 | Chair: Ervont Smith | 219/980-6824; esmith@iun.edu |

Dian Packard has joined the university as the interim director for the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. Packard comes to IU Northwest with more than 25 years of experience in financial aid administration. Her experience includes working at Northwestern University (Chicago Campus), and serving as director of student services and assistant dean for student affairs at the Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine, Chicago. She was also coordinator of admissions and financial aid and director of student services at Ivy Tech State College, Gary. Packard earned a B.A. degree in psychology from Wheaton College and a M.S. degree in Education with an emphasis in college student personnel administration from IU. She is a four-time recipient of the Award for Outstanding Service from the Illinois Podiatric Medical Students Association. In 1998 Dian was recognized for her leadership in developing “One of the Ten Best Initiatives in Financial Aid,” by the Sallie Mae Educational Institute.

Ruth Needelman, Ph.D., chair of the Division of Labor Studies and Swingshift College, presented at Labor at the Cross Roads, sponsored by Queen’s College Labor Studies. The program opened the current debate within the labor movement on a new strategy for the future to the public. Among speakers were the executive presidents and board members of Communication Workers Unions, and representatives from labor and universi-

Notes of Distinction

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