Construction underway; closures begin for State Street project

CHAIR’S CORNER

Hello, dear colleagues,

Last week, I had the pleasure of attending the outstanding Moody lecture by Kathy Naum, 2015 Indiana Teacher of the Year, who spoke about overcoming what seems impossible. After permanently losing her sight during childhood, Kathy endured many challenges and setbacks, however, after she realized that she could succeed by approaching her challenges in a unique way, her efforts led her to become a champion tennis gymnast, an inspiring speaker, an outstanding high school teacher, and eventually, the 2015 Indiana Teacher of the Year. Through her amazing gift for storytelling, Kathy shared the power of forming a positive mindset, and she revealed that you really can redefine yourself using words, ideas, and feelings that we’ve never used to define you before. A record of her excellent presentation is available at [https://youtube.com/...](https://youtube.com/...).

In other news, this month APSAC is sitting through applications for our various competitive opportunities. The Professional Development subcommittee is reviewing grant applications. The Compensation and Benefits subcommittee is soliciting nominations for the APSAC Excellence Award. The Membership and Communications subcommittee is interviewing applicants for open positions on APSAC. If you didn’t apply for one of these opportunities, or if you did apply but were not selected, please consider applying in the future. We usually have more great applicants than we can accommodate each year, so don’t give up!

On March 14, APSAC convened with CSAC, the Clerical/Service Staff Advisory Committee, for a joint meeting. We formed breakout groups to discuss opportunities to improve various parts of the total work experience. For example, we will be pursuing ways to make it easier to take advantage of discounts and perks available to employees. We will discuss how to encourage a culture of professional development. We are studying ways to improve traffic flow on and near campus, one way that you could help with this is to encourage your employees, as appropriate, to work from home occasionally and to utilize flexible arrival and departure times.

As always, your APSAC members are eager to hear your feedback and ideas, so please feel free to share. Thank you for all that you do for Purdue.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Guffey
Some traffic restrictions are in place and more begin soon for the State Street Redevelopment Project. As highlighted in the 2017 vehicular traffic plan, the following roadways will be affected during the April 1 to May 14 timeframe:

- State Street between Airport/McCormick Road and University Street will be closed to traffic.
- McCutcheon Drive, MacArthur Drive, North Russell Street (south of 1st Street), Waldron Street (south of 1st Street) and South Russell Street will be local access only.
- Marsteller Street will be closed to traffic.
- State Street between Littleton Street and the Wabash River Bridge will be open to traffic with lane restrictions in place.
- Portions of Tapawingo Drive to the north and south of State Street will be closed to traffic.

- Additionally, intermittent preparatory work will take place along State Street between U.S. 231 and Tapawingo Drive, which could result in brief lane restrictions.

Pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists should obey all posted signs and use caution while traveling in these areas.

To help the community navigate the upcoming State Street Redevelopment Project, an interactive construction map is available on www.statstreetbw.com. The map is currently set to show the conditions as of the start of construction. Once construction is underway, the map will be reviewed weekly and updated as appropriate. Each highlighted section of the map can be selected to learn more about work duration, scope and travel impacts.

Also available on www.statstreetbw.com are access routes to campus and West Lafayette and the vehicular traffic plan — updated as of March 30 after its initial release in December. The vehicular traffic plan highlights major traffic impacts through the end of November.

Pedestrians and bicyclists navigating campus should use the north/south vehicular access routes (e.g., Airport/McCormick Road, Martin Jischke Drive, North and South University Street, and Grant Street). Signs and fencing will be posted to help route pedestrians and bicyclists.

The community is encouraged to regularly visit www.statstreetbw.com throughout the project for up-to-date information. Sign up for alerts by visiting the West Lafayette zip code, 47906, at 888727 or by selecting “Alerts” on www.statstreetbw.com.

TrAnSFORMING PURDUE business through design phase
Relocations from Freehafer Hall to begin March 10

Beginning in March and continuing through the end of April, departments and services that are currently located in Freehafer Hall will move to different facilities in preparation for the Freehafer Hall Redevelopment Project.

HADLEY SERIES TALK BY NIMMER AVAILABLE ONLINE
Purdue University President Mitch Daniels announced March 20, that the university will hold tuition at 2012 levels through the 2018-19 academic year, ensuring that four graduating classes will have gone through Purdue without ever experiencing a tuition increase and marking the sixth straight year of flat tuition after 36 years of increases. In addition, Daniels announced that the university will offer a 2.5 percent merit raise pool for employees for 2017.

“A careful review of our finances with CFO Bill Sullivan and the board of trustees has convinced us that we can continue our policy of tuition restraint while maintaining competitive compensation levels and an aggressive program of investment in teaching and research,” Daniels said. “Through the cooperation of units and individual leaders across campus, Purdue students and their families will pay less to attend Purdue in 2019 than they did in 2012. We’re unaware of any other American university that can make that statement.”

Daniels announcement means tuition and fees through 2018-19 will remain at 2012-13 levels with resident students paying $9,002, out-of-state students paying $28,804 and international students paying $30,604. In addition to tuition and fees, with the approved 2017-2018 rates, room and board costs continue to be at or lower than 2012-13 levels. During this time, Purdue dropped from having the second-highest rates in the Big Ten to the third-lowest for room and board.

Lower costs combined with added communication and education about debt have also helped lead to a decrease of 80 percent in Purdue student borrowing since 2012, a stark contrast to the national scene, where, since 2010, Americans have held more student debt than any other form of debt except home mortgages. Purdue’s student loan default rate, too, is far lower than the national average with Purdue at 1.1 percent three years after graduation compared with the national average of 7.6 percent.

Purdue in-state tuition would be more than $1,000 per year higher if the university had raised its rates at the national average.

“As a result of flat tuition since 2012, Purdue students and their families have saved more than $226 million that they would otherwise have had to spend on their educational expenses.”

Nationally, the amount of federal student loans in default at the end of 2016 increased 14 percent from 2015 to $137 billion, and 1.1 million federal loan borrowers defaulted. Nearly 2.5 million borrowers were delinquent over the past two years.

**ADDITIONAL FACTS ON INVESTMENT**

* $5 million was invested in order to offer basic dental insurance to all Purdue employees in 2016 and 2017.
* An additional $3.7 million was invested to add coverage for cardiac treatment in the 2016 and 2017 employee health plans.
* $21.3 million was invested to establish the Purdue Polytechnic Institute.
* $7.2 million was invested to help professors transform courses from traditional to active learning classrooms.

**ADDITIONAL FACTS ON AFFORDABILITY**

* Purdue in-state tuition would be more than $1,000 per year higher if the university had raised its rates at the national average.