

A Message to Purdue Students

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 4, 2009

Dear Purdue students,

Students, it's been a great two weeks seeing all of you as you begin what we know will be a successful year at Purdue. We are working hard, as we know you are. Our focus is in ensuring you get a great education that will pay you dividends for the rest of your life — in your career and life.

I and other university officials have been meeting with the State Budget Committee to address their tuition concerns. We're hopeful our third meeting — scheduled for next Tuesday, September 8 — will lead to a resolution. We continue to explain the necessity for, and practical reasoning behind, the tuition increase passed by the Purdue Board of Trustees and work to address the committee's expectations.

Our talks have been about additional ways to keep higher education affordable, while meeting our other goals for student success — an exceptional education and a timely graduation. It's also important that you know what we've done so far.

Rebate. We rebated the \$500 student success fee for incoming Indiana undergraduate students before anyone asked us to do so.

New Scholarships. We increased financial aid, aggressively raising money for new scholarships like the Marquis, the only university-provided scholarship in Indiana designed specifically to help good students from middle-class families — just one part of our \$304 million Access & Success campaign. Total financial aid and student support at Purdue for 2009-10 is estimated at \$510 million — the most ever. Currently 76% of Purdue students receive some form of financial aid.

Cost-Cutting. We cut costs in-house first. Purdue cut \$9.8 million from the annual budget, and we froze salaries this year, a step everyone agreed was necessary given the economic climate. That helped us preserve jobs and offset a cut of \$21 million in our recurring state support over the biennium. This will help us avoid a precipitous drop in funding in two years when stimulus money is gone.

Innovative Programs. Initiatives like Signals, a computer application that warns students of possible problems in their coursework, and Pathways to Purdue, a new way for Indiana agricultural students to start at Ivy Tech and finish at Purdue, further demonstrate our commitment to student success.

Purdue remains a great value for education. We recently were ranked 22nd nationally among public research universities — a jump of 4 places from last year's ranking — yet our tuition is among the lowest of these top universities. Purdue has been steadfast in refusing to compromise the quality of education for our students and the value of our degree for our alumni.

We will continue to work with the state to identify new solutions to affordability challenges. Tuition is the investment our students make in their future. Our exceptional faculty and staff work hard to ensure it will pay them back many times over. I'm proud of the work we all do and the sacrifices we have made to help students succeed and realize their dreams.



France A. Córdova
President