As 2009 comes to a close, I certainly hope that your semester has been a productive and successful one. I can certainly say that 2009 has been very successful for the Office of Mentoring Services and Leadership Development and the Men and Women of Color Leadership Conference that it hosts.

This year the conference (cosponsored by the Kelley Office of Diversity Initiatives) combined both the Men and Women of Color Leadership Conferences into one huge mega event! The combined event exceeded registration expectations and experienced an attendance of 474 participants! Yes, 474 motivated men and women of color converged on IU’s campus to engage in critical dialogue that pertained to educational excellence, leadership development, career development, and diversity awareness. This is a first for an event of this type at Indiana University.

Visitors were represented from several institutions from around the country, including: Duquesne University, Virginia Tech, Huston-Tillotson University (Austin, Texas), University of Alabama at Birmingham, Hamline University (Minnesota), Eastern Illinois University, Purdue University, and Indiana University. Students from these institutions were treated to a wonderful selection of keynote speakers and workshop presenters. Many of these presenters are professors and graduate students from schools and programs within IU.

While I can say that this program has evolved to gain national recognition, it would not have been possible without the dedicated group of students and professionals that gave their efforts to this project. In addition, there remains a strong corps of committed supporters who continuously donate their time and resources towards this event.

Here are this year’s conference donors and supporters:
Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President, Office of the Vice Presi-
dent for Diversity, Equity, and Multicultural Affairs, Kelley School of Busi-
ness, Indiana University 21st Century Scholars Program, Office of Community
and School Partnerships, Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center, Indiana Univer-
sity School of Education, Indiana University School of Health, Physical Educa-
tion and Recreation, Center for Student Leadership Development, Indiana Uni-
versity Office for Women’s Affairs, Groups Student Support Services, Hudson
and Holland Scholars Program, Office for Diversity Education, Latino Cultural
Center (La Casa), Men of Color Leadership Institute, Committee for Multicul-
tural Understanding, Office of Multicultural Initiatives, City of Bloomington,
Ivy Tech Community College, Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau,
Monroe County Community School Corporation, and PricewaterhouseCoopers.
The first day of the conference focused on providing an atmosphere that the high school participants could thrive in. High schools from Monroe county and other counties around Indiana attended the conference.

Robert Jackson and Tajuana ‘TJ’ Butler make their way down the hallway of the Kelley School of Business on day one of the conference. Both Jackson and Butler were keynotes at the beginning of the conference.

Keynote Jeff Johnson speaks on the importance of students of color putting themselves in positions of influence in their communities. Johnson addressed the conference crowd on day two of the event in the Wittenberger Auditorium.

From the Office of Mentoring Services and Leadership Development.