



INDIANA UNIVERSITY SOUTH BEND
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Hi Everyone!

I want to take a moment and extend a heartfelt welcome to all Education students (both new and returning) to the Fall 2020 semester! We are so glad that you are here.

As I walk on campus and through the halls of the Education and Arts building, it is easy to see that this is an unusual semester – but I still feel the excitement of returning, and the energy that students are bringing to this new academic year. Although there have already been a couple of speed bumps with technology, I am proud of the adaptability and flexibility that you all, as future teachers, counselors, and administrators, have displayed in response to these challenges. I am happy to be getting back into a *relatively* normal routine for the academic year, and so pleased that you have chosen to be part of it.

Although those of us in the helping fields have always known how important the work is, during the past few months as we have been dealing with COVID-19 across the globe, the crucial roles played by teachers, counselors, and school leaders have become even more apparent. It is our teachers who have helped children to maintain some semblance of normalcy and consistency in an uncertain environment, our administrators who have facilitated adaptations for the classroom and supported faculty and families, and our school and community counselors who are helping individuals deal with the social and emotional impact of both a once-in-a-century pandemic and important civil and social justice movements in our region. The jobs you have and aspire to are important. Thank you for allowing us to be part of your educational journey.

Over the coming weeks we will all need to continue to exercise patience, flexibility, and grace with one another as we continue to acclimate to new expectations and environments. We appreciate your dedication to your own future, and (through the simple practices of hand washing, social distancing, and mask wearing) your commitment to ensuring the health and safety of others, as well as your own.

Your advisors and instructors are ready for you, and we are thrilled to get things moving. Please stay connected with us. Reach out if you have questions, and take advantage of the opportunities that we will be developing over the course of the term so that we can stay connected with you.

Wishing you a safe, productive, and engaging semester!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hope Smith Davis, Ed.D.".

Hope Smith Davis, Ed.D.
Dean
School of Education