



INDIANA UNIVERSITY SOUTH BEND
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the start of spring semester! Yes, **spring** term. It just feels so glorious to say it. Spring to me connotes a time of rebirth, of growing, and of joy.

I am hopeful, as we begin the start of this term. I am hopeful because the vaccine is rolling out and our most vulnerable populations are becoming protected. I am hopeful because of the swift condemnation of the violent actions of those wishing to tear down our democracy that came from around the globe and across party lines during the recent insurrection at our Capitol. I am hopeful because our Congress continued its work despite the terror that the individuals inside the walls must have felt as insurrection brewed just outside. I am hopeful because long-known, but too easily ignored inequalities faced by Americans have been so clearly brought to the forefront of our national conversation that they cannot be ignored. There are now, for the first time in decades, opportunities to rectify and respond. There is no place for racism in our democracy. There is no place for white supremacy. There is no place for violence. Black Lives Matter. As Gandhi exhorted, we need to be the change we want to see, and I am hopeful that out of the crises that have been dominating the headlines over the past many months, real change will come.

As a future educator, counselor, or school leader, you've already chosen a path that provides a direct opportunity to promote and uphold equity and inclusion. As we begin this new semester, and a new chapter in both national and world history, I hope that you will take some time to reflect on who you are as an individual, and how you can be part of this sweeping change. I hope that you will avail yourself of opportunities to stay or become more engaged, and that you will actively participate in whatever way you can, to examine who we are as a nation and a community, and to work toward who we want to be.

I wish you the best this semester, and look forward to a time when we can all gather together again in person.

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