

BLUE IS FAMILY

Sycamore Family Newsletter

- February 2021 -

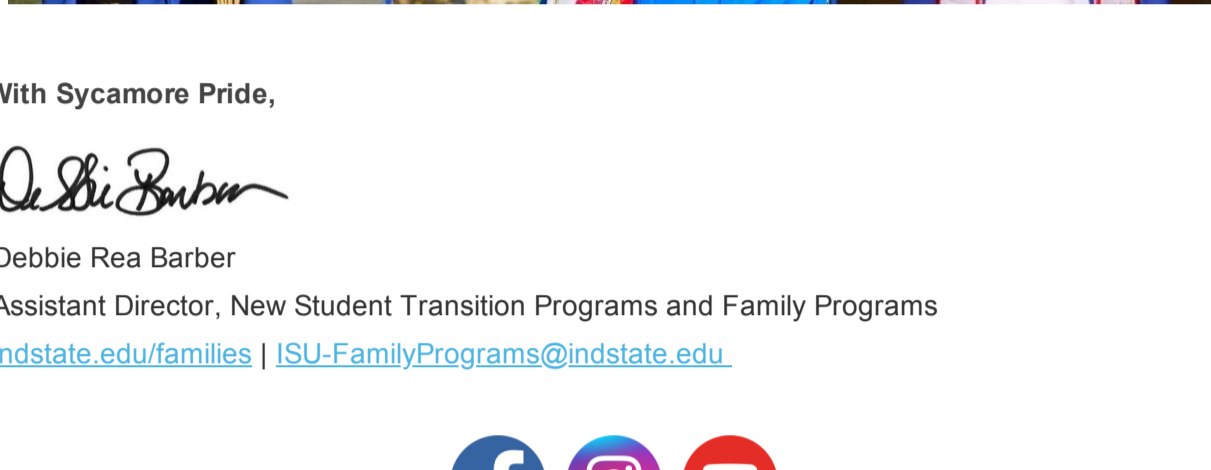


A Note from Family Programs

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by Black Americans and a time for recognizing and celebrating the central role of African Americans in the United States. At Indiana State University, the [Charles E. Brown African American Cultural Center](#) provides opportunities for African American students by creating intentional programming that is important to them. It advocates for and celebrates academic achievement, social involvement, cultural contributions, and community engagement.

As an undergraduate student, I studied history and for as long as I can remember, have always been drawn not only to historical events and figures, but also to the role history plays in current contexts. I am a firm believer that you cannot look at current happenings without the historical context that goes with them. At Indiana State, the history of African American students is rich and longstanding. It is far from perfect, but it is a story of astute tenacity in the pursuit of education for all people during times of enormous inequality and racism in the United States. The establishment of the Charles E. Brown African American Cultural Center is a direct result of that tenacity and perseverance. The civil unrest of the country in the 1960s and 70s was not absent from Indiana State's campus and in 1969 a group of students, known as the Magnificent Seven, took over the Administration Building, causing the university to shut down. The students presented a list of demands to President Rankin, such as lower tuition, increased numbers of Black faculty, and a Black Studies Program. There was also a call for the establishment of an Afro-American Cultural Center, where Black students could have a safe space specifically dedicated to their experiences and African American culture. It was also to provide Black students with a much needed recreational space. Their demands would not be met overnight and in the months and years ahead, tension and discontent would continue to escalate as students would not back down from their requests. As a result, in the fall of 1972, the Afro-American Cultural Center was officially established, under the leadership of Michael A. Ard. It was renamed the Charles E. Brown African American Cultural Center (AACC) in 2012.

During Orientation Leader training, when talking about the history and traditions of ISU, I often use the AACC as an example of the influence and ability our students have to enact change both in their community and around the country. It wasn't a group of lawmakers, staff, or faculty, who led the way for change on Indiana State's campus. It was students, who not only saw the injustices happening but were also living the injustices themselves, who demanded that change be made. That is tenacity. That is perseverance. That is looking at a system which has failed so many throughout history, and yet still having the belief that the system can be bettered. Education is a fundamental right of all people, but that right is often hindered by inequities and lack of accessibility. What the Magnificent Seven sought to change are all still things our country desperately struggles with and will take a tremendous amount of work to overcome. At times it feels completely out of reach. But what I do know by knowing our students at Indiana State, and by knowing the mission that the AACC works tirelessly towards, is that those struggles are not in vain. Today, ISU has the largest enrollment of African American students in the state of Indiana. The work and accomplishments of those students stand on the shoulders of the students who came before them. The ground is laid, the foundation strong, for the continued progress towards justice and equality.



With Sycamore Pride,

Debbie Rea Barber

Debbie Rea Barber

Assistant Director, New Student Transition Programs and Family Programs

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Week 1 Weekly Spirit Challenges

February 4 • Black Out
Dress in All Black (BLM/ Black History Month shirts) and Post a Picture, Tag AACC page and hashtag #BHM

Week 2
February 8 • Red, Black, and Green Day
Wear Red, Black, and Green Attires
February 10 • Black History Fact Day
(Research a black history fact) post about it on the whiteboard in the AACC, post on your social media start with "Did you know..." tag AACC

Week 3
February 16 • Support a Black Business
Donate to any local or international Black- owned business of your choice!
February 19 • Black Excellence Day
(Dress Up in your best attire) Dress to impress

Week 4
February 22 • Black Family Matters
(Post a picture of someone in your family that you are proud of that inspires you/ that you look up to)
February 26 • African Dashiki Day
Wear your Favorite African Dashiki or any African Attires

Dates to Know

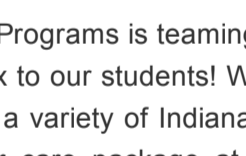
FEBRUARY

- February 17 - Pathway to Graduation: WTF: What the Finances
- February 17 - Virtual All Majors Job & Internship Career Fair
- February 25 - March 2 - Interim Grading

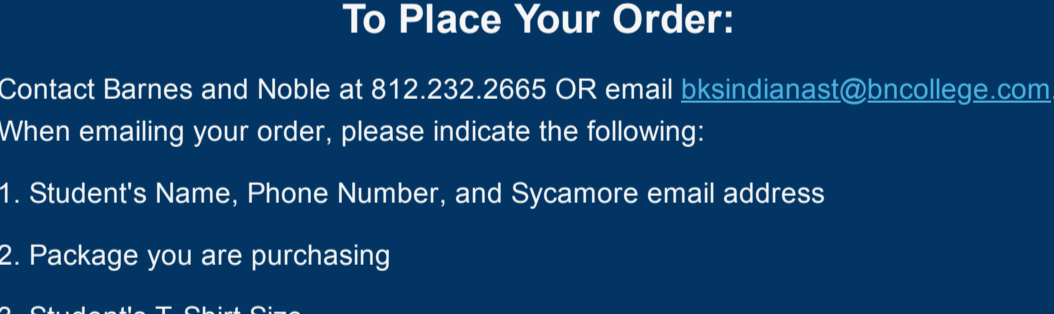
MARCH

- March 3 - Give to Blue Day
- March 8 - International Women's Day
- March 10 - Pathway to Graduation: Get Your 'Ish Together
- March 17 - Pathway to Graduation: Should I Drop This Class?

[VIEW FULL CALENDAR](#)



Share your family's favorite recipe with us!



Tastes from Home



Do you have a favorite family recipe that you love cooking for your student when they go home? If so, we want to hear about it!

We'll collect your recipes and share them in our Sycamore Family Cookbook. We'll even choose some of the recipes to serve in our Dining Hall so students can have a taste from home while on campus! If your recipe is chosen, your student will receive \$10 in Commons Cash!

To submit your recipe, just scan the QR code above, or go to: bit.ly/TastesFromHome

PACKAGE A \$21.38 Indiana State T-Shirt Sunglasses	PACKAGE B \$48.11 Indiana State T-Shirt, Hat, and Cup Sunglasses
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SPRING BREAK IN A BOX

SEND A CARE PACKAGE TO YOUR STUDENT!

PACKAGE C \$71.60 Indiana State T-Shirt, Hat, Cup, and Bag Drawstring Bag Sunglasses	PACKAGE D CREATE YOUR OWN
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Family Programs is teaming up with the [Barnes & Noble Campus Bookstore](#) to send Spring Break in a Box to our students! We're offering four different packages families can choose from that will feature a variety of Indiana State items. Students will be notified beginning on March 8th to pick up their care package at the Bookstore. When placing your order, be sure and include the discount code HELLO21 for 21% off one item.

To Place Your Order:

Contact Barnes and Noble at 812.232.2665 OR email bksindianast@bncollege.com.
When emailing your order, please indicate the following:

1. Student's Name, Phone Number, and Sycamore email address
2. Package you are purchasing
3. Student's T-Shirt Size
4. Discount Code HELLO21

Please use "Spring Break Care Packages" in your email subject line.

Sycamore Family Fridays Webinar Series

February 19, 5:00pm (EST): Financial Wellness in College

Understanding how to manage finances is a critical component in the experience of a college student. Between tuition, scholarships, and other financial aid options, there are many factors for students and families to consider. Join us as we chat with the Office of Student Financial Aid, University Scholarships, and the Bursar's Office to discuss financial support resources available to students, important dates and deadlines, and strategies for assisting students in financial wellness.

INDSTATE.EDU/FAMILIES | [SYCAMOREFAMILIES](https://www.facebook.com/SYCAMOREFAMILIES) | [ISU_FAMILIES](https://www.instagram.com/ISU_FAMILIES)

Register to attend here!

Timely Issues

February

It's February! This means Black History Month, Valentine's Day, Fat Tuesday, and Interim Grades all crammed into 28 days. It's also coming up on one month back from break and in the winter months, often that can seem much longer because the skies are grey and the weather is dreary. Below are a few tips to help your student navigate the winter blues:

Encourage them to get out of their "rut" or combat cabin fever by attending any one of the hundreds of campus events going on around campus this month. They can find out what's going on by visiting the [Campus Events](#) calendar or the Treehouse in their portal.

Now is also a great time to start planning for summer. Have they considered looking for Internships for this summer? Encourage them to contact the [Career Center](#) to see what is available for either an Internship or even some job shadowing opportunities to get a feel for their future career.

Has your student completed their FAFSA for next fall? If not please encourage them to do so as soon as possible. The Indiana deadline for state financial aid is April 15th, which means it must be received by then, not mailed on that date. There are financial aid and [FAFSA workshops](#) happening all over campus in the next two months if your student needs help completing their FAFSA.

February also means Valentine's Day. This is often a time for angst for many students. Those in relationships often begin having issues around this time and those not in relationships often feel down and lonely. Encourage your student to contact the [Student Counseling Center](#) or the [Dean of Students Office](#) if they are experiencing these issues.

Interim Grades come out at the end of February so students are starting to have exams and may, for the first time, realize they are struggling in their classes. Encourage yours student to talk with you about their interim grades and where they might be struggling – sometimes it's a hard class, sometimes it's attendance issues, and sometimes it's missing assignments.

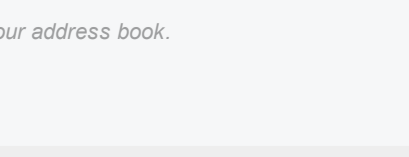
February can be a rough month and students sometimes do struggle. If you notice your student is struggling and are not sure how to help them encourage them to contact their Academic Advisor. Their advisor will be able to connect them with the necessary resources to help.

COVID-19 Contact Information

- Office of the Dean of Students | 812.237.3629 | ISU-DeanofStudents@indstate.edu
- Office of Residential Life | 812.237.3993 | ResLife@indstate.edu
- Accessibility Resource Office | 812.237.2700 | isu-dss@indstate.edu
- Student Health Center | 812.237.3883
- [COVID-19 Reporting Form](#)
- [COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

SYCAMORES STAYING SAFE

COMPLETE THE SYCAMORE SYMPTOM ASSESSMENT	WEAR A FACE COVERING	WASH HANDS FREQUENTLY	MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE	DISINFECT SURFACES	STAY HOME WHEN ILL
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