Statement for Chancellor's Professor Nomination – Ulla Connor, January 2011

Since 1984, I have been actively involved in IUPUI's mission to "advance the State of Indiana and the intellectual growth of its citizens to the highest levels nationally and internationally through research and creative activity, teaching and learning, and civic engagement" and to "promote the educational, cultural, and economic development of central Indiana and beyond through innovative collaborations, external partnerships, and a strong commitment to diversity." The narrative below highlights areas in which my record contributes to this mission.

Research

A theme running through my published research has been its practical relevance in concrete social contexts for teachers, fundraisers, business people, and, most recently, for health professionals. My research analyzes the language and discourse of teachers and students, philanthropic fundraisers, international business people, and patients in health care settings. I believe in researcher-practitioner collaboration where both parties are included in all stages of the research from the start of the design to the dissemination of the results. Examples of this philosophy are several co-authored publications with practicing teachers, a major collaboration with the IU Center on Philanthropy and the building of the world's first user-friendly computerized corpus of fundraising materials, and, most recently, an interdisciplinary research project, funded by the Eli Lilly & Company Foundation. The latter – through interviews with diabetes patients – produced concrete advice for health care professionals for more effective interactions with patients. Such research is time consuming and often difficult – researchers and practitioners as well as researchers from different disciplines speak different "languages" and have different "cultures." These differences, however, when negotiated, in the end produce the most significant results. The Indiana Center for Intercultural Communication's (ICIC's) interdisciplinary research approach was further recognized by the award of an IUPUI Signature Center Initiative Grant (2010-2013).

At IUPUI I collaborate in research with students and have mentored several junior faculty in joint publishing projects. The encouragement of such collaboration first came from my own mentor at IUPUI, the late Ray Keller. Ray was a role model of an excellent teacher, first-rate publishing scholar, and a self-sacrificing university citizen. Again, collaborative research may take more time than solitary research, but the results enhance knowledge construction and professional development of colleagues.

Practical research, intercultural research, interdisciplinary research, collaborative/co-authored research – these all can spell low recognition by peers at many institutions. This has not been true at IUPUI, which has encouraged me in every step, as has the international applied linguistics community.

This research philosophy, translational at its core, found fruition in the formation of the ICIC. My vision for ICIC, which I founded 12 years ago, is to connect research with real-world practical applications of linguistic principles. That was novel at the time but has since served as a model for other linguistic centers in the world. ICIC, now a dynamic unit

with a dedicated staff and committed research fellows, is recognized world-wide as an active, highly productive unit; one indicator of my and the center's reputation is the regular requests I get from doctoral students and other scholars from around the world to use ICIC as a research/residence site. During a recent faculty search in applied linguistics, the English Department realized that my scholarship and the work done in the ICIC were major attractions at IUPUI for many of the top candidates. For me, the most satisfying research aspect about running ICIC is my ability to hire and educate our own department's and school's students and faculty through its innovative teaching, research, and other projects.

One innovation at the ICIC that I lead the development of and am particularly proud of is a new institutional model of intercultural communication, which relies on negotiation and accommodation by both parties in the communication. In this model, not only do internationals need to adjust their talk (as has long been argued by many) but native speakers do as well. This interactive model of intercultural communication is being embraced by linguists and policy makers around the world. Most notably, I was invited by the governments of Iceland and Norway to use this model to help in facilitating intercultural communication among immigrants in the Nordic countries. I am equally proud of the impact of the ICIC Conference on Intercultural Rhetoric and Written Discourse, held at IUPUI in 2005, 2006, 2008, and scheduled for 2012. The Conference has become a successful international conference, most recently hosted by the Ohio State University in 2007, the University of Michigan in 2009, and Georgia State in 2010.

I am an invited speaker at conferences around the world and have served as a guest professor at prestigious universities on many continents. My writings on communication across cultures are recognized as laying the foundation for a new field in applied linguistics called contrastive/intercultural rhetoric. My book, *Contrastive Rhetoric* (Cambridge University Press, 1996) is used around the world, and the sequel, *Intercultural Rhetoric in Second Language Writing*, is forthcoming (University of Michigan Press, 2011).

Teaching

I was hired at IUPUI to teach linguistics and composition. In my second year, I was asked to start the English as a second language program for international students. It was a labor of love to plan the courses and get the program off the ground. With the enthusiastic help of many adjunct faculty, including the late Barbara Zimmer, and a dedicated advisory board from most schools and units on campus, the program soon became an institutionalized asset for students and continues to help IUPUI recruit students from around the world.

In the late 1980s, I chaired the English Graduate Studies Committee. As chair, I provided leadership in the development of one of the first three MA programs in the School, bringing together the literature, writing, and linguistics professors to write and shepherd the proposal though its myriad routes at IUPUI and IU. The program has been running and growing since 1993. As part of the MA program development, I wrote the course proposals for the linguistics courses and throughout the years have taught each of them. In addition, I was also instrumental in the development of Indiana's first endorsement program for English as a Second Language K-12 teachers in the 1980s, working closely with Professor Ed Robbins in the School of Education. Today I am working with colleagues in the

Department on a MA program proposal for TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) to accommodate the great demand in Indiana, in other states, and overseas to educate ESL teachers in ever increasing and more specialized English language environments (like English for health care professionals).

In sum, at IUPUI, I have taught at all levels that we offer: graduate and undergraduate courses in linguistics; service courses in ESL; and service courses for the community and the IU School of Medicine through ICIC. As in my research, one level leads into the other: graduate courses enlighten the teaching of undergraduate and service courses and vice versa.

Service

At IUPUI I have been encouraged to serve on committees at all levels. I have truly enjoyed the service in departmental, school, and campus committees, ranging from elected promotion committees at all levels to ad hoc salary review committees at departmental and school levels. In 2007, the IU School of Liberal Arts honored me with the Outstanding Distinguished Resident Faculty Award. I stay active in departmental service, including serving on the directors' committee, chairing linguistics position search committees, and often chairing departmental annual review and promotion committees.

One of the most satisfying campus committees was chairing the Faculty Council's Planning Committee and serving on the Futures Committee a few years ago. For the Futures Committee, faculty leaders and high level administrators worked on strategic planning for IUPUI with an increasing emphasis on civic and international engagement.

IUPUI's commitment to diversity and civic engagement has also been the cornerstones of ICIC's service component. ICIC has a vital and committed community advisory board with women and men from underrepresented cultural groups targeted by the center's intercultural research. The ICIC Board's first chair, Karl Zimmer, received an honorary doctorate from IU/IUPUI for his contributions to ICIC and the IU School of Liberal Arts in 2005.

In addition to providing language and cultural training for individuals and groups in the community, ICIC under my leadership has collaborated with local agencies to offer a variety of workshops and training sessions to meet local community needs, including the Indianapolis International Center to organize a panel on immigration, the Indianapolis Foundation of the Central Indiana Foundation to offer grant-funded workshops for local ESL tutor volunteers for immigrants, and Catholic Charities of Indianapolis to present similar tutor workshops. Internationally, I have led ICIC's development of numerous partnerships for student and faculty exchanges and collaboration, including a 17-year-old relationship with Tsuda College, Japan's foremost women's college.

In sum, I feel fortunate in having been offered a position at IUPUI in 1984 because IUPUI has encouraged me to pursue my work in an integrated manner and because I have been part of moving IUPUI forward as a vibrant urban university. I am deeply honored to be nominated for Chancellor's Professor.