INDIANA UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Selection Committee
Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching

FROM: William M. Plater, Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean of the Faculties Emeritus

SUBJECT: Nomination of ROBERT BRINGLE

DATE: January 3, 2011

I am pleased to write in support of the nomination of Robert Bringle for the 2011 Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. I am pleased to join in this nomination both because Bob is highly deserving of the recognition and because it allows me to help address an oversight since I thought he had been recognized with this award some time ago. He has certainly been deserving of the honor for some time.

he case for his nomination is well supported by a résumé replete with scholarship, professional service, and classroom teaching that span decades and that reflect innovation, leadership, and commitment to the highest standards of student achievement. Bob has expected much of his students, and he has been rewarded with outstanding performance from students during the entire period of IUPUI's transformation from an open-admission de facto community college (at the lower division) to a TO nationally-recognized university of quality. Throughout the transformation of the university, Bob has been constant in his commitment to the students he is teaching and to the belief that teaching does, in fact, enhance learning.

It is fitting that IUPUI recognize Bob Bringle with one more honor as he nears the end of his professional career here because he has done as much as anyone in the United States—and arguably the world—to advance the concept and practice of service learning—a pedagogy that now tops every expert's list of effective practices. There are others who have contributed, but few have done so through both their own teaching and scholarship with such impact. Moreover, no one of whom I am aware has also led in the creation of an exemplary campus-based program. Bob has not only practiced what he preached, but he has created a campus-wide program and culture of teaching and learning based on service that has won IUPUI international recognition and engaged dozens of his colleagues in adopting service learning for their own departments. Through his publications, workshop at other universities, and conference presentations, he has influenced hundreds of faculty around the country to investigate and adopt service learning as well. In every instance, it is Bob Bringle from IUPUI who is noted as the person of influence. He has done a great deal to enhance our reputation as a university committed to student success, and it is fitting that we honor him with this award.

I strongly support this nomination and hope the committee will conclude that this is the time to celebrate Bob Bringle's lifetime of excellence in teaching.

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