From Steve Graunke, President
Hi everyone, I hope you’ve been able to stay warm amidst the brisk winter we’ve been experiencing.

The INAIR executive board met on January 10 to discuss preparations for the 2014 INAIR conference and other important business. Conference planning is well underway. Our new VP Linda Fergusson has stepped-in and done a tremendous job. Thanks to the work of Linda and Mike King, conference planning has proceeded without a hitch, and we are poised to have an excellent conference this year. The board was able to tour the conference facilities at the Westin Downtown after the board meeting, and the hotel should be impressive. The conference call for proposals is still open, so if you or your colleagues have valuable research or best practices to share, please consider submitting a proposal. The due date for proposals is January 27. Please also feel free to e-mail Linda or Mike if you would like to assist in conference preparations.

You may have also noticed the new INAIR.org is up and running. This website is the result of Publications Chair and Web Administrator Monal Patel’s efforts to find a new web hosting service, transfer the content of the old site, and create a new look and feel. The new website is very professional and should serve well as INAIR’s front door to the world. Thanks to Monal for all her hard work, and feel free to let us know what you think of the new site.

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The INAIR Board is also discussing the future of the INAIR newsletter. Don Sprowl and Steve Dayton have done a great job stepping up while Monal has gotten the new INAIR web site up and running. We want to make sure that the newsletter remains a vital source of information for our members, and it is in that spirit that we will be looking to make some changes to the way the newsletter is created. I’ll be sending an e-mail with these changes over the listserv in the coming weeks. Be on the lookout.

Finally, as many of you know we had to say good-bye to yet another INAIR Board member, as our Liaison to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE), Molly Chamberlin, has accepted another position within state government. I know many folks from around the state were very excited about the contributions Molly was able to make at ICHE in her short time there. Given ever changing state policy and data needs, it is critical that ICHE remain an important part of INAIR. Let’s hope Molly’s successor is able to bring a similar level of knowledge and enthusiasm to the role.

Thanks to everyone for helping to make INAIR the valuable resource that it is. I look forward to seeing all of you in March!

From Linda Ferguson, Vice President

Hello Colleagues,

Plans for the 2014 INAIR Annual Conference are well underway. As Steve announced earlier, I am filling in as INAIR Vice President as a result of Jessica Ickes’ acceptance of a new position out of state. Much of the conference planning was well underway thanks to Jessica’s hard work and that of the Conference Planning committee led by Mike King. The conference will be on March 27 and 28 at the newly renovated Westin Indianapolis in the heart of downtown Indianapolis. The Call for Proposals has gone out and proposals are due on January 27. Since the conference is at the end of March, the deadline date is later than in past years so there’s still ample time to submit your proposal and I encourage you to do so. Given this year’s theme of Celebrating IR Collaboration and Differences, this might be the ideal time to collaborate with colleagues from other institutions, offices or organizations.

The official conference flier was recently distributed and is on the conference website. In it, you’ll find a brief description of our two pre-conference sessions. Andrea Ingle and Teresa Sanders will be conducting a Newcomers Workshop. This is a wonderful professional development opportunity for all who are new to the field of Institutional Research. The other workshop, led by Molly Chamberlin of the Center for Education and Career Innovation, provides an overview of the Indiana Workforce Intelligence System with a focus on the history of IWIS; the work of the IWIS task force; and future developments that may have positive impact on institutional research.
I am also pleased to announce that once again this year, the Association for Institutional Research (AIR), and INAIR are co-hosting an IPEDS Workshop. The workshop will be presented in two modules – one on Wednesday afternoon and the other on Thursday morning. Participants will be expected to attend both parts. Best Practices for Reporting and Using IPEDS Data to Improve Office Efficiencies is a new offering for INAIR and is designed for individuals who lead the IPEDS data submission cycle on their campus and have done so for at least one full reporting cycle. Using IPEDS as a focus, participants will:

- Learn IR best practices and technical efficiencies in data management through Excel (e.g., pivot tables, merging data, custom formulas, and filters);
- Examine multiple options for IPEDS submission (manual entry, .csv file upload, and XML);
- Learn how to use benchmarking data to address key institutional questions and needs.

This workshop will be provided at no charge to participants. Registration information is on the INAIR website (www.inair.org).

Our opening plenary session and closing keynote address fit perfectly with the conference theme. The opening session, conducted by Molly Chamberlin (CECI) and Scott Feeney (ICI), will focus on Collaboration and Data Sharing in the state of Indiana – for both public and independent institutions. Our keynote speakers, Jan Lyddon and Bill Knight, will wrap up our conference by sharing their thoughts about Institutional Research and Institutional Effectiveness similarities, differences and evolution.

Conference registration and hotel registration is via the INAIR website (www.inair.org). The early registration deadline is February 20 and the hotel conference rate deadline is February 24. I can’t wait to see you all in March. We’ll have fun! And of course, we’ll learn a lot too.

Door Prizes
We’re trying something new with door prizes at the 2014 conference. Each participant should bring an item that is unique or interesting to their campus or community. Please attach a note identifying your institution and describing how the item relates to it or your locale. The distribution details haven’t been completely ironed out, but we’re thinking each person submitting a prize will get a number and we’ll call up participants in small groups to streamline what has sometimes been a lengthy process.

INAIR on the web:  http://inair.org/