First Friday…..February 7, 2014

The winter continues here in central Indiana as I write this edition of First Friday. The dental school and IUPUI campus was closed Wednesday with another significant snowfall in early February. In Punxsutawney PA, according to Groundhog Phil, the world’s most famous furry forecaster, there are six more weeks of winter ahead this year! Phil did see his shadow so we just need to get used to winter for a while longer. While it’s cold outside, we remain “hot on the planning” for comprehensive new dental facilities to support the educational programs for IUSD. The work we do now better positions the IU dental school within the complex environment of dental education and practice to advance our Mission and the Vision of IUSD to make Indiana…..one of the best dental schools of the 21st century.

Dental Facilities and Building Project Update

I shared with you the exciting possibility of acquiring space in a former Wishard clinical building. We have been working with the IU campus architects office to assume use of the current Wishard Primary Care Clinical (WPCC) building (approx. 100,000 sq. ft.). This four story building with a basement connects to other health care buildings through a series of underground tunnels—useful in wintery weather! We are now studying the feasibility of relocating programs to this site. It appears to make the most sense to explore the relocation of the dental school operation to this new area on campus. No final decisions have been made to relocate any program/s, but we are undertaking the next steps in earnest by working with an architect to explore “what if/s” and obtain some preliminary design and cost estimates. Here is where we are to date:

- We have now engaged a local architectural firm, Arc Design.
- It is apparent that there is good opportunity for IUSD to move into new clinical space. We also know that there is considerable re-engineering to the infrastructure throughout the building: dental vacuum, compressed air, and IT-data (gigabyte lines). The entire structure is heated/cooled electrically (no steam or chilled water). Adam Smith tells us this is less reliable and may require renovation. This will affect our operations whether we are in place, or potentially delay occupancy of the space. The building is fed from one main electrical circuit, where IUSD is fed from two circuits (more reliable).
- Preliminary draft #1 of a facility space plan is almost complete. Reaching this point is critically significant to determine the feasibility of moving a number of our clinical programs into the WPCC facility which includes oral surgery/emergency clinics to regain clinical space lost at the Regenstrief location.
- Based on draft #1, work could begin renovation following detailed design and project approval on WPCC floors 1 & 2 without affecting our existing IUSD programmatic needs. In effect, these two floors become swing space for program transition.

IUSD Student Outreach Clinic:

2013 Tarrson Award Winner—Bravo!

Indiana University School of Dentistry has been awarded a 2013 Bud Tarrson Dental School Student Community Leadership Award for its Indiana University Student Outreach Clinic. Third year dental student Brian Rochford was supported in the application by Dr. Karen Yoder.

The Tarrson Award recognizes dental school student programs that demonstrate excellence in providing services to underserved populations within the U.S. The ADA Foundation received many outstanding applications this year and the selection of winners was difficult. We are happy to announce that instead of presenting one Tarrson Award this year, the ADAF is for the first time presenting six Tarrson Awards to select programs due to a generous gift from ADA Business Resources (ADABERI). The awards are valued at $5,000 each. We are very excited to be able to recognize more programs that are doing such important work for all involved.

Read All About it:

http://www.ada.org/news/9515.aspxad
• Adam Smith observes that we might look at the comprehensive Wishard campus dental project as 4 interconnected layers:
  o Layer 1: WPCC floors 1 & 2 can be outfitted immediately with a new oral surgery suite of clinics, emergency and several other clinical components.
  o Layer 2: Remaining Clinical Space floors 3 & 4 & basement: Could serve most remaining clinical space needs but moving to this step involves some programmatic assumptions, and thus will require some answers regarding future operations. It appears many options are available for the Wishard space, but IU just doesn't have those answers yet.
  o Layer 3: Research space: We need to refine research program needs and explore options for location of high quality research space.
  o Layer 4: Didactic & Office Space: We need answers regarding space utilization in the surrounding facilities and whether or not we can add on to WPCC. Once we have these answers, we'll be better able to make "all-in" considerations.

Moving forward, we are continuing to work with Indiana University to attain answers regarding IUSD's acquisition of further space in the surrounding facilities, and the potential of adding new facilities to the WPCC structure. These answers are critical in making most of our determinations. I invite you to contact me directly with your thoughts, ideas or concerns. We are targeting spring 2014 to have some draft plans. Once drafts are outlined, we will present to the IUSD community for consideration.

• IUSD-IUPUI DDS Program Nationally Student Ranked in Top 5
  Graduateprograms.com, a social media student survey website, reaches current and recent graduate students through scholarship entries as well as social media platforms. These program rankings cover a period from September 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013. Graduateprograms.com assigns 15 ranking categories. See where the IU-IUPUI dental program ranks.

• Departmental Restructuring-Cariology and Operative Dentistry
  Work continues on the melding of the former Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry with the division of Operative Dentistry. A search is underway for a department chair who will also be the IDA Endowed Chair in Restorative Dentistry. The alignment of these two areas recognizes the contemporary approach to caries research, diagnosis and disease management in clinical practice today.

• Competency Based Education Experiment- Lowering Cost of Education?
  From the recent edition of the Chronicle of Higher Education, seventeen higher-education institutions have responded to the U.S. Department of Education’s call last month for ideas in which “experimental sites” could test innovative ways to reduce college costs, with a focus on the competency-based models that have gained traction across the country. Dental education programs make extensive use of “competency assessments” so this national movement may hold promise for DDS programs as one way to control or lower costs. You can read about the proposed competency experiments here.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support of the Vision and Mission of IUSD. I’ll be back next month with the 2014 March edition of First Friday…Dean’s Update.

Eager for an early spring 2014!

- John

Check out all the current IUSD News on our website or at: http://www.iusd.iupui.edu/