

March 31, 2008

Dear Colleague:

It is our pleasure to invite you to participate in the fourth *Courage to Lead Program*, a series of four seasonal retreats for faculty and administrative leaders at Indiana University School of Medicine and School of Nursing. This fourth series will begin in October 2008 and will be co-facilitated by Deb Litzelman and Rich Frankel (both IUSM faculty and members of the Relationship-centered Care Initiative RCCI). Deb and Rich have completed facilitator training with Parker Palmer, renowned author of the *Courage to Teach*, and his colleagues in preparation for this work. The workshops will focus on leadership development and personal and professional renewal.

We are offering these retreats for faculty, administrators, and trainees who wish to help transform the culture of the medical and nursing schools by creating safe and trustworthy spaces for learning and reflection, and who wish to bring greater depth to the work they are already doing. This work is framed by questions such as: “How can I engage in leadership roles and be true to myself?” “In what ways are my inner life and outer work connected?” “What are the forces that nourish or constrain my soul?” “How can I find joy and fulfillment in my leadership roles and activities?”

The retreats will provide the time and support to reflect on the connection between the world of inner experience and the outer world of service as it relates to leadership. In large-group, small group and solitary settings, we will explore the “heart of the leader” using stories from our own journeys, reflections on work experiences and insights from poets, storytellers and diverse wisdom traditions. We will be invited to speak from the heart about our lives and work, and to listen and respond to each other with compassion. Built into the retreats are opportunities to discuss principles and practices that underlie Courage work, and an exploration of how participants might use them to further relationship-centered work at IUSM.

Logistics:

This program is comprised of a series of four retreats. Each begins with dinner and an evening session on Day 1, and a full day on Day 2.

The dates and times are as follows:

- 1) Monday, Oct 13, 2008 (6-9:30 pm), Tuesday, Oct 14, 2008, (8 am - 4:30 pm)
- 2) Monday February 9, 2009 (6-9:30 pm), Tuesday, Feb 10, 2009 (8 am - 4:30 pm)
- 3) March 16, 2009 (6 – 9:30 pm), Tuesday, Mar 17, 2009 (8 am - 4:30 pm)
- 4) May 18, 2009 (6-9:30 pm), Tuesday, May 19, 2009 (8 am - 4:30 pm)

The Invitation:

The Retreat Program is open to 20 members of the IUSM community who are interested and able to commit to the four sessions of the program. Once we have formed a cohort, the program will be closed to newcomers for this series. If you are interested in participating, please return the attached application to Deb Litzelman (dklitzel@iupui.edu) by August 15, 2008. Of course, please feel free to contact either of us if you have questions.

We look forward to hearing from you and to embarking on this adventure together.

Sincerely,

Deb

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Rich

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