

## Leaders Reflect on Dynamic Year

Segue • SIUE

Friday, May 25, 2018



At the end of each academic term, Greg Budzban, PhD, College of Arts and Sciences dean, enjoys sitting down with Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Chancellor Randy Pembroke, PhD, to share how the University evolved during the past year.

On this week's Segue, which airs at 9 a.m. this Sunday, May 27, on WSIE 88.7 FM The Sound, Chancellor Pembroke and Dean Budzban review a plethora of topics, including the joys of having an operating budget, how parts of the campus have thrived and what we can look forward to in the fall.

"We started last fall by talking about the fact that over the summer, we received a budget! Because of that budget, we had new initiatives in place that were part of the vision for the year," Budzban says. "I want to give you a chance to go back over them and see how those went."

Pembroke begins his explanations by bringing listeners back to the 2016-2017 fiscal year, when SIUE and other state institutions like it did not have an operating budget. As it entered the first week of the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the state passed an operating budget for the 2017-2018 year and a retroactive budget for 2016-2017.

"With a budget, we ended up with funding we didn't know we would have that year," Pembroke says. "When it appeared that we may have had some stability for funding, I proposed an innovation fund. That was to give our faculty, staff, students or even members of our community an opportunity to suggest ideas that could make our University better.

"We sent out a call and received nearly 40 proposals from across campus. We had a two-stage review process, and 14 made it to that second round. Of the 14, we had eight that were truly good ideas to launch the innovation grant concept. Those ideas ranged from installing more energy-efficient lighting systems to recruiting students from different parts of the country."

Pembroke also mentions that the innovation fund is looking to view one more round of applications. Submissions will be accepted until July 18.

Another one of the initiatives that Pembroke hoped to implement over the 2017-2018 year was community engagement projects, some of which involve the East St. Louis campus.

Increasing international partnerships was also among Chancellor Pembroke's goals for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. In March, the Schools of Nursing, Pharmacy, and Education, Health and Human Behavior took a service learning trip to Costa Rica to study, explore the country and extend partnerships with the University of Costa Rica.

"I've been going to Costa Rica for 14 years and started taking students around 2008," Pembroke said. "In the early years, students only did construction in areas that needed help."

During their spring break, the group of students and faculty members donated shoes to school children and orphanages, offered health screenings for students and community members, studied medicinal plants, and

worked to maintain and guard beaches commonly used as turtle nesting grounds from poachers and other threats.

In future trips to the country, Pembroke is excited for SIU School of Dental Medicine students to get involved in the trip to provide care to the country's citizens.

"Our School of Engineering has a construction management program, as well. So, our next phase of planning is not only getting them involved to design and build new structures, but also integrating parts of sustainable design methods in the construction," Pembroke mentions.

Among some of the other exciting things happening on campus at SIUE, one of the campus' largest capital projects is the renovation and construction of the Science Complex. Budzban mentions that this week, the Departments of Mathematics and Physics are moving back to their home.

"I've talked to some of the faculty over there, and they couldn't be happier! The new facility is first rate, and they are looking forward to opening that up this fall with a large Science Showcase event," Budzban says.

"One of the things that a lot of people don't know about that project is that Sen. Bill Haine really went to bat for us with that project," Pembroke replies. "It stalled about a year into the project due to all of the budget issues. Sen. Haine was instrumental in saying, 'look, we have to do something,' we were just wasting time and resources not getting the project finished."

With Haine's support, the capital budget was reapproved and the University was able to get the project finished.

The College of Arts and Sciences is also thrilled that the new visual and performing arts center has completed its design phase. Also, donor support has allowed for the second floor of the School of Engineering's Student Design Center to soon be completed.

"I just want to thank all our supporters, whether it's our political supporters or our private funding," Pembroke graciously says. "Without them, projects like this couldn't happen, and we need things like that to keep SIUE moving forward."

Before concluding, Pembroke and Budzban felt it was necessary to address the current relationship between SIUE and SIU Carbondale.

"It's somewhat dynamic, as you know," Budzban says. "Depending on what happens in Springfield, it could really change."

At the April SIU Board of Trustees meeting, the board denied a proposal to allocate \$5.1 million from SIU Carbondale to SIUE.

"Some of our legislators reacted to it with some ways to respond, and we're waiting to see what the answers will be," Pembroke replies.

Regardless of what lawmakers decide, one thing is certain: SIUE will continue to provide students with a high-quality, affordable education that will prepare them for successful careers and lives of purpose to shape a changing world.

Tune in at 9 a.m. on Sunday, May 27 to WSIE 88.7 FM The Sound to hear the episode in its entirety.

*By Madelaine Gerard, SIUE Marketing & Communications*