

## Message from the Executive Director

Fiscal year 1997 was a year of firsts for the Institute for Public Affairs. We hosted our first national conference, *The Links Between Public Universities and State Capitals: Preparing for the 21st Century*, in May. The conference brought together academics, policy specialists, and policy makers to anticipate changing social needs and to develop creative responses to those needs. It was the fifth annual LINKS conference, with the largest attendance to date. Over 250 participants from 30 different states came to Springfield for the four-day event. The conference also modeled what we can achieve working cooperatively with other units of the University of Illinois such as the Institute of Government and Public Affairs and the Great Cities Institute of the Chicago campus.

For the first time ever, the institute exceeded the \$4.3 million mark in its receipt of outside funding to support institute projects and activities. It had an 18 percent increase in external funding this year over last year. The Center for Legal Studies had a 64 percent increase in its external funding, the largest percentage increase of all the institute's units. The Center for Legal Studies brought in over \$1.5 million, the highest dollar amount of all of the institute's units. It was followed by the Graduate Public Service Internship Program with over \$900,000 in outside funds. The incredibly productive and dedicated faculty and staff of the institute can be proud of their efforts.

The institute involved a record number of faculty from the UIS campus in institute-sponsored activities during the year. Forty-nine faculty, including those who also hold administrative appointments, from all the schools and the library worked with the insti-



tute in some capacity during the year. Nine were from the School of Business and Management, and 12 were from the School of Health and Human Services. Twelve faculty with appointments in the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences worked in the institute, as well as one faculty member from the Library, and 15 faculty from the School of Public Affairs and Administration. Their participation ranged from holding formal joint appointments or noninstructional assignments, to serving as a project director on a grant or contract and being retained to work on a project, to speaking, serving on a panel, or organizing an IPA-supported event.

This report details institute activities conducted during the course of the year. They are many and varied. Numerous clients, funders, underwriters, and partners made significant contributions for which we are grateful. I would like to thank all of those involved for making fiscal year 1997 one of the institute's most successful years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nancy L. Ford". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light-colored background.

Nancy L. Ford