



## SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

To: Sherry Queener  
From: Brad Hamm *BH*  
Re: Sports Journalism Master's Program at IUPUI  
Date: October 22, 2009

As dean of the School of Journalism, I strongly support the new proposal for a master's degree in sports journalism based at IUPUI.

This program will be the first of its kind in the nation. As has been demonstrated over the past nine months, we intend to run the best sports journalism program in the United States.

Since January 2009, we have:

- Created the National Sports Journalism Center;
- Built the site [www.sportsjournalism.org](http://www.sportsjournalism.org) as the top place for news and commentary about this field;
- Recruited a national advisory board that includes some of the most prominent leaders nationwide in broadcast, print and new media for sports journalism;
- Hired Tim Franklin, former editor of the Baltimore Sun, to build the center;
- Formed a partnership with the Associated Press Sports Editors organization, the largest group of sports journalists in the nation;
- Organized and presented two significant panels about issues in sports journalism, with both panel discussions taped by public television (WTIU) and airing regularly on the Big 10 Network;
- Reached out to nearly all sports organizations in Indianapolis; and
- Discussed partnerships with IUPUI academic units.

An undergraduate major and a master's degree are essential components of the development of the nation's best sports journalism program. It would provide a special focus for IUPUI and the School of Journalism and allow for mission differentiation between our Bloomington and Indianapolis academic programs.

This sports journalism initiative developed from discussions over several years with former president Adam Herbert, chancellor Charles Bantz, other IU administrators in Indianapolis and Bloomington and IUPUI associate dean Jim Brown and his faculty.

I believe the master's degree is an essential step in our program development that meets the goals of IU leaders by developing areas that match the city, the state and the campus, while aiming to be the best in the nation at what we do.