

CELEBRATION OF ILLINOIS STATE FOUNDING

2022

DEAR FRIENDS,

I am excited to share that we will once again hold the Illinois State Founding Celebration on **Wednesday, February 16** and **Thursday, February 17**. Please accept my personal invitation to participate in this fine event that celebrates Illinois State University.

During the celebration, the University will observe such traditions as the Bell Ringing Ceremony, the Faculty/Staff Appreciation Luncheon, and the Alumni Awards Dinner. Many faculty, staff, and alumni will receive awards and recognition, and the University will hold a posthumous Honorary Degree Investiture.

President, Dr. Terri Goss Kinzy

Please refer to the Illinois State Report and the Founding Celebration website at IllinoisState.edu/Founding for further details.

HONORARY DOCTORATE RECIPIENT ANDREW PURNELL, POSTHUMOUS

Andrew Purnell arrived on campus in 1953, interested in engineering. He studied industrial arts, switched to math as his major during his junior year, and graduated in 1957. Beyond working to cover his college expenses, Purnell was active in intramural wrestling, fast-pitch softball, and bowling. He was inducted into Iota Lambda Sigma, an honorary fraternity, and served on the advisory boards for his class as a junior and senior.

Purnell joined peers in forming the University's first NAACP chapter. Members tested public accommodations for African Americans in Bloomington. The local roller rink and YWCA allowed access to black residents only once a month at the time, with restaurants refusing service. A meeting with the McLean County State's Attorney resulted, with a promise that unlawful discrimination would end.

Purnell was drafted into the U.S. Army. He trained in Colorado and did classified government work at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. He declined a job with NASA, choosing instead to complete a master's degree and pursue a career in education. He taught math and served as an administrator in Illinois at Eisenhower High School and Alan B. Shepard High School.

In 1983, Purnell began working to create the Illinois State University Black Colleagues Association, which was chartered on campus in 1984 with 40 participants. Membership has risen to nearly 300 and more than \$280,000 has been raised to provide black students with scholarships. Purnell has served on the University's Alumni Association Board and various campus committees. He has been inducted into the Steve and Sandi Adams Legacy Hall of Fame and received the Alumni Association E. Burton Mercier Alumni Service Award. In 2013, he was chosen as the alumnus Homecoming king. Purnell died March 20, 2020. He is survived by three adult children.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Faculty/Staff Appreciation Luncheon

11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Brown Ballroom, Bone Student Center

Program: 12:30 p.m.

Buffet: Circus Room, Bone Student Center

Faculty/Staff University I.D. must be presented at the door

Awards being presented:

- Outstanding University Service Award
- Service Initiative Awards
- David A. Strand Diversity Achievement Award
- Environmental Stewardship Award
- Civil Service Distinguished Service Awards
- Administrative/Professional Distinguished Service Awards
- A/P Emerging Leader Awards
- CS and A/P Esprit de Corps Awards
- TEAM Excellence
- Stan and Sandy Rives Excellence in Undergraduate Education Award

Recognition:

- CS and A/P scholarship recipients

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

10 a.m. Founders Bell Ringing Ceremony and Posthumous Honorary Doctorate Investiture

Brown Ballroom,
Bone Student Center

6 p.m. Alumni Awards Dinner

Brown Ballroom,
Bone Student Center

Call (309) 438-2856 for tickets



**ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Illinois' first public university