**I Know I Can Board Message**

Hello IKIC Board Members!

I wanted to provide a quick update as we wrap up our first week working from home. I know it will not surprise you that our team has been working hard to connect with current college students and current high school seniors this week. They have been communicating with students via email, text, and phone. The students have appreciated the check in and help with accessing needed resources.

Alesia Gillison, CCS Chief Engagement Officer and IKIC Ex-Officio Board Member, held a conference call yesterday with community partners to update us on district plans, share available resources, understand our capacity to serve students remotely. We are working together with CCS to make sure our high school seniors continue to take the necessary steps to stay on track for graduation and move forward with their postsecondary education and training plans. We are fortunate that our team proactively gathered cell phones and personal email addresses from about 70% of all high school seniors before schools closed. Our team will be using Google Classroom and/or Zoom to set up virtual office hours so that students can make appointments for face-to-face advising sessions.

Our county team is working closely with both Whitehall and South-Western school districts. In South-Western, each high school set up a graduation task force to make sure the seniors have support and access to one-on-one advising. Our staff members working in those districts are serving on their respective high school’s task force.

Our entire team came together (virtually!) this morning for a conference call. My focus today was on their mental health and well-being. While all that I have mentioned above is critically important work, I asked the team to focus on two priorities – first and most important, their own mental health and well-being, and second, the health and well-being of their families. I tried to share examples of what I am doing at home with setting up a daily schedule, limiting social media and the news (with the exception of the daily briefing from Governor DeWine and Dr. Amy Acton), reading and exercising, and finally, journaling about this crazy experience.

Again, I am so proud of this team. They are incredibly talented, compassionate and dedicated individuals who are carrying out our mission with grace and strength.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions! I hope that we are able to come together in June for our next board meeting. Until then, I hope you are staying home, staying healthy, and practicing social distancing!