

**A PROCLAMATION ON RECOGNIZING DECEMBER 5, 1912, AS THE  
FOUNDING DAY OF THE INDIANA UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

BY THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY

**A PROCLAMATION**

Recognizing the essential role of student governance in fostering leadership, advocacy, and community at Indiana University, it is imperative that we honor the origins and historical milestones that have shaped the Indiana University Student Government.

**Whereas**, the concept of a student council at Indiana University was first proposed on December 5, 1912, during a meeting of what is now called the Indiana Memorial Union Board, when Professor Louis S. Davis presented the plan to establish a council dedicated to student welfare and self-governance following a faculty resolution aimed at reconciling faculty and student viewpoints, and it was during this meeting that the idea of student self-government at Indiana University was first approved by students.

**Whereas**, the student council, as outlined, was intended to bridge the gap between faculty and students, representing a significant step toward a comprehensive system of student self-government and emphasizing representation based on individual merit;

**Whereas**, despite initial enthusiasm and support, the early efforts of the student council faced numerous challenges, including jurisdictional overlaps with other campus organizations and a significant defeat in the 1919 referendum, delaying the establishment of a stable student government;

**Whereas**, persistent advocacy by student leaders and support from university administration, especially from IU President Herman B Wells, culminated in the ratification of a student government constitution on January 28, 1944, thus laying the foundation for the current IUSG;

**Whereas**, the IUSG has evolved significantly since its inception, adapting to the changing needs of the student body and expanding its responsibilities to enhance student life at Indiana University;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Cooper Tinsley, Student Body President of Indiana University, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim December 5, 1912, as the Founding Day of the Indiana University Student Government.

To commemorate this recognition, I hereby adopt a new seal for the Indiana University Student Government, affixed to the document embodying this proclamation. This seal will

serve as a symbol of our legacy and will be used exclusively by senior IUSG officials on official documents, in addition to our current symbol.

I further assign the Department of General Operations, under the direction of the Executive Chief of Staff, the responsibility of developing comprehensive branding guidelines for the use of the seal.

Additionally, the recognition and celebration of Founding Day will be coordinated by the Office of Alumni Relations to ensure that this important milestone is honored annually within our community.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of July, in the present year two thousand and twenty-four, and of the Indiana University Student Government the one-hundred and twelfth.



Cooper Tinsley  
Student Body President  
Indiana University Student Government