FROM ISE’s EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 5, 2008

Dear ISE/CHRMS Partners and Community Members:

Greetings! We at ISE have the great fortune to work with some of the most committed and dedicated people you could find. This report is an acknowledgement of all these people and presents to you the fruit of their labor, often achieved with great sacrifice.

It is hard to escape the notion of “green” these days. We must acknowledge the creativity and innovation that the green movement has generated. “Green” products and services abound and the awareness is also increasing. Many have seen the opportunity in going green and have responded to the call. There is even talk of a green economy. These developments are laudable. However, we need to make sure the socio-economic aspects of sustainability are not just an afterthought.

There are a large number of people who are doing amazing work. A simple Google search with key words “social entrepreneurship” (for instance) will unearth a wealth of information about a large number of people who have dedicated their lives to working quietly to create a better future for all of us. Why do these people do it? I suspect they simply care enough! Their stories are both humbling and inspiring. The social entrepreneurship movement has worked to empower people at the local level and improve their quality of life in ingenious ways. Let us learn!

Sustainability as an issue and as a cause is larger, much larger than anyone of us. The solutions in some senses lie all around us. In fact they have existed for a long time and are practiced in many parts of the world. While it is romantic to emphasize creativity, innovation and leadership, it is really the recognition that we do not “know” all the answers and a willingness to listen and learn from others that will enable the mutuality and collaboration that we so urgently need.
During the year, we have continued to receive encouragement and support from the administration at FDU and the Dean, administration, faculty staff and students of the Silberman College of Business (SCB). We thank all our colleagues for their support.

We thank our partners and supporters for their belief in the cause and support of our activities. Our Founding and Corporate members... Alcoa, Automatic Switch, Becton Dickinson, Commonhealth, First Energy, Heller Communication Design, Interface, Johnson and Johnson, Novartis, Ortho Biotech, NJHEPS, Philips, PSEG, Ricoh, Sanofi-Aventis and Wakefern Foods have performed a critical role in keeping us focused on our mission. We cannot thank them enough. Our Advisory Board helps us stay focused on our mission.

ISE is a self-organizing system that is dependent on the initiative and enthusiasm of people to continue its work: Dan Twomey, Rose Twomey, Joel Harmon, Jeana Wirtenberg, Jonathan Cloud, William Moore, Gwen Jones, Joan Slepian, Maura Pniewski, Kent Fairfield, Christine Farias, Bill Russell, Matt Polsky, Julian Gronager and Ai Uramoto who have been generous in their advice and efforts to move us forward. We welcome Brendan Canavan and David Hanna our graduate assistants for this year.

Thank you.