MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
BRUCE COLE
(1938-2018)

All of us at Indiana University are deeply saddened by the passing of Bruce Cole, one of our university’s most renowned scholars and public servants, who achieved great distinction both within his field of art history and in the broader arts community. A distinguished scholar of Renaissance art, he possessed a deep and broad knowledge of art and architecture that he applied to all of his scholarly and public-service endeavors, many of which he dedicated to highlighting the importance of understanding the past in order to preserve and strengthen our democracy and culture. He was also the first IU faculty member to be appointed to the university’s Board of Trustees in modern times, and during his long and accomplished tenure at IU he served as a powerful champion for celebrating and enhancing the university’s renowned traditions in the arts and humanities.

When he was sworn in as NEH chairman, Bruce said that “defending our homeland requires not only successful military campaigns; it also depends on citizens understanding their history, their institutions and their ideals. The humanities show us what it means to be an American, and why America’s ideals are worth fighting for.”

Bruce devoted his life and career to these ideals and, hence, his will be a lasting legacy within the field of humanities and for all of us who will carry on his work to preserve our nation’s cultural heritage.

We at IU were extremely proud to serve as Bruce’s academic home for so many years and benefit from his extraordinary accomplishments and service to the university. He will be greatly missed, and our thoughts and condolences go out to his family, friends and former colleagues here and all around the nation.

Michael McRobbie
President, Indiana University