

Labh S. Hira **Raisbeck Endowed Dean**

Dr. Hira has led a period of tremendous growth and transition in the College of Business, marked by two of the most significant milestones in the young college's history: the completion of the Gerdin Business Building, and, most recently, the creation of a PhD program in business and technology.

Dr. Hira chaired the College of Business Building Planning committee, which oversaw the \$25 million project to build the college's first standalone, state-of-the-art facility. The building was named for donors Russ and Ann Gerdin and opened in January 2004.

The PhD program in Business and Technology began in fall 2009. Its implementation represented the final step in making the College of Business a comprehensive business program. It offers three specializations: customer management, supply chain management, and management of information technology.

Dr. Hira has also worked to improve support for the college's faculty, students, and programs through *Campaign Iowa State: With Pride and Purpose*, a campaign that generated over \$47 million, more than \$5 million over the campaign goal. A highlight of the campaign was a gift from David and Ellen Raisbeck, which created an endowed Dean's Chair in the College of Business. Under Dr. Hira, scholarship funds have increased from \$149,000 in 2003-2004 to \$455,000 in 2010-2011. The number of named faculty positions has increased from five in 2003-2004 to 27 in 2011.

His leadership extends far beyond the College of Business. Dr. Hira was recently appointed by the Board of Regents as co-chair of the ISU Presidential Search Committee. He chaired the search committees for the current deans of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Engineering, and co-chaired the search committee for the current dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. He is a co-chair of the Resource Management Model Review Committee, tasked with evaluating the effectiveness of the university's new budget model. He was also appointed by Executive Vice President and Provost Elizabeth Hoffman to the university's 2010-2015 Strategic Plan Task Force serving as a member of the 2050 Challenge Task Force.

He has also served on numerous review committees for AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, reviewing other business schools for reaccreditation.

Prior to his appointment as the dean in 2001, he served as chair for the departments of accounting and finance, and the associate dean and senior associate dean of the college. During his term as associate dean (1996-2000) and senior associate dean (2000-2001), Dr. Hira was instrumental in developing and implementing the Des Moines MBA program. He also chaired MBA students' program of study committees during this time while managing the college budget.

Dr. Hira specializes in the taxation of retirement and insurance products with financial accounting being his teaching focus. He has been quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* and has authored numerous journal articles. He has served on the editorial board of two national journals and authored chapters in four books.

Dr. Hira is a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, serving on the Executive and Governance Committee and chairing the Finance and Planning Committee. He is also a member of FHLB's Audit and Compensation Committees. He has served on the Board of Directors of Smithway Motor Xpress, including its Audit and Compensation committees. He has also served on the Employee Plans Ad Hoc Committee for the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service. For the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Dr. Hira acted as a technical reviewer for continuing professional education courses and served on the Employee Benefits Subcommittee. He has also served as a deputy on the Iowa Business Council.

Dr. Hira has served on the Board of Directors of the Iowa State University Foundation. He was also a member of the Finance Committee for the Foundation. From 1996 to 2000, he was co-chair of the "Drive from Within" campaign. This \$10 million fund drive exceeded its goal by raising \$14.2 million. He has served on the Board of Directors and Public & Professional Relations Committee for the Iowa Society of Certified Public Accountants (ISCPA). At the ISCPA, Dr. Hira has also served on the Federal Taxation Committee, Professional Ethics Committee, Insurance and Membership Benefits Committee, and was an expert volunteer for employee benefits with the society's call-in program.

Dr. Hira is a member of the Iowa Society of Certified Public Accountants, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, American Association of Accountants, American Taxation Association, Beta Gamma Sigma (Honor Society for Collegiate Schools of Business), and Gamma Sigma Delta (Honor Society of Agriculture).

Dr. Hira and his wife, Tahira, a professor of personal finance and economics and executive assistant to President Geoffroy, received the ISU Foundation's Order of the Knoll Faculty and Staff Award in 2010 for their long-term professional and volunteer service and leadership through the advancement of philanthropy.