

**USI BOARD APPROVES FOUR  
DEGREE PROGRAMS, HEALTH CENTER  
PLANNING, RECONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY**

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Four new programs -- baccalaureate degrees in French, geology, and occupational therapy and a master's degree in psychology -- were approved Thursday by the University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees and will be forwarded to the Indiana Commission on Higher Education (ICHE) for approval.

The Board, meeting in Indianapolis in conjunction with the Statewide Conference for University and College Trustees, also initiated planning for the next major campus addition -- a Health Professions Building -- and took enabling action on the remodeling of classroom space into science laboratories.

The new degree programs have been proposed by University faculty and administration to start in the fall of 1991, to meet identified needs in southern Indiana, including:

- French is offered in all Evansville high schools and the University major is deemed a logical addition to its current Spanish and German majors. In addition, the University is planning initiatives related to foreign language and international trade. Japanese is expected to be the next language added.
- The Evansville Standard Metropolitan Area (SMA) serves approximately 309,000 residents and is the center of trade and health care for an estimated 885,000 individuals living in Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky. There is demand for both the master's of psychology and occupational therapy professionals. Indiana has only two occupational therapy programs, both in Indianapolis.

(MORE)

**University of  
Southern Indiana**

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- There is no geology program available in the Tri-State. Environmental issues are becoming increasingly important, imposing a need for professionals that also is borne out by the efforts of state and regional graduate schools to attract good graduate students to their programs.

The Board, emphasizing its desire to expedite planning for the Health Professions Building, approved the search for an architect to plan the facility that will house all health-related programs on campus. University officials noted continued enrollment growth dictates early planning for additional facilities.

The new Robert D. Orr Center, a \$7.8-million classroom building, will be occupied this month. It adds nearly 45,000 square feet, but the University continues to feel the pressure of overcrowding with the fall 1989 enrollment of 5,713 students.

New classroom space in the Orr Center allows the conversion of Science Center classrooms into science laboratories. Bids on the \$800,000 project are to be received February 13, with a contract recommendation to be submitted to Board members at their March 1 meeting.

In related business, the Board received a report from Odle McGuire and Shook, the architects for the Orr Center, on a review of the campus master plan. The review, the first by an architect since 1971, offers a dynamic development plan for 10 years and beyond, a design to make the best use of campus topography and available land.

The architects presented concepts for outdoor recreation and physical education programs and recommended siting for other buildings, noting that proposed dormitory and outdoor gathering spaces will add to the vitality of the campus.