

DR. C. THOMAS PICKERING

APPOINTED USI DEAN OF EDUCATION



NEWS RELEASE

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A Kansas educator described as a scholar with a vision for the future has been appointed dean of the School of Education and Human Services at the University of Southern Indiana, a position created by USI's July 1 reorganization from academic divisions to schools structured to accommodate future institutional progress.

Dr. Charles Thomas Pickering, formerly dean of the School of Education at Fort Hays State University, has assumed duties at USI and begun to organize the new school, which will oversee academic programs for education, physical education, and social services. In his Fort Hays post, he administered a school with four academic departments and was certification officer with primary responsibility for overseeing 47 state-approved teacher and administrator education programs.

His leadership in three years at Fort Hays was credited with successful efforts to professionalize course offerings and provide greater efficiency of curriculum, while working with a heavily tenured faculty and statewide financial cutbacks. The FHSU School of Education offers large numbers of courses in off-campus setting. Dr. Pickering established programmatic offerings and in-service programs in the off-campus centers, including a highly regarded annual full-day program for more than 400 teachers and administrators. Dr. Pickering also directed FHSU's self-study for teacher and administrator education program accreditation in 1987-88.

Colleagues laud his extensive knowledge of teacher education problems and needs, noting his perception of how to solve problems and satisfy needs is "very sound," and cite his ability to work with others to solve problems.

Dr. Pickering received his B.S.Ed., M.Ed., and Ph.D. from Ohio University, Athens, with respective concentrations in social studies, psychology, and school psychology and research and testing. Prior to his tenure at FHSU, Dr. Pickering was a classroom teacher in Johnstown, Ohio (1964-66), a part-time
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instructor at Ohio University (1969), intern school psychologist (1969-70) in Logan Ohio; assistant professor of elementary education (1970-73) at Western Carolina University; assistant professor of early and middle childhood education (1973-74) at Ohio State University; professor and head of the Department of Elementary Education and Reading (1974-82) at Western Carolina; and professor and chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction (1982-85) at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Dr. Pickering has been active in numerous professional organizations, the most recent including serving as chair for a state-wide conference on "Students at Risk: Implications for the Profession," sponsored jointly by Kansas education organizations; member of the Kansas Comprehensive Program Development in Special Education Steering Committee and Kansas Education Department's Program Approval Study Task Force; and as president of the Kansas Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. Reading is the theme for many of the articles he has had published and for his frequent presentations at professional meetings.

Dr. Pickering and his wife, Vivian Smith
Pickering, have four children.