



NEWS RELEASE

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Dallas Bower Suhrheinrich creates three endowment funds; USI names School of Education and Human Services in her honor

USI President H. Ray Hoops today announced a \$1 million charitable gift to the University's capital campaign by Evansville civic leader Dallas Bower Suhrheinrich. The gift will be used to establish three endowment funds to support Presidential Scholarships, faculty enhancements, and programs to promote teaching excellence.

In recognition of Mrs. Suhrheinrich's generous gift, the School of Education and Human Services, which includes the departments of teacher education, social work, and physical education, will bear her name.

The \$1 million gift will underwrite at least two Presidential Scholarships with preference given to students in the Bower-Suhrheinrich School of Education and Human Services. It will also make possible professional development opportunities and applied research for the faculty in the school. These gifts support the Featured Objectives of *Campaign USI*.

The third endowment will establish the Bower-Suhrheinrich Endowment for Teaching Excellence and will provide seed monies for special projects designed to help guarantee that teaching excellence is provided not only for USI students but also for area elementary and secondary teachers. Some immediate projects will include an annual lecture series on teaching and learning, continuing professional development for teachers, minority recruitment and retention, and partnerships with selected elementary and secondary schools to connect teacher education to school curriculum and education renewal.

Dr. C. Thomas Pickering, dean of the Bower-Suhrheinrich School of Education and Human Services, noted that systematic programs for the professional development of teachers are rare, not only in Indiana but throughout the nation. He said, "The Bower-Suhrheinrich Endowment for Teaching Excellence will allow USI to take the lead by establishing a Center for Educational Renewal when the Indiana Professional Standards Board completes its development of a new model for teacher licensure."

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Commenting on the gift, Mrs. Suhrheinrich said, "My late husband, Bill, and I have always believed that the welfare of a community depends largely upon the quality of its schools. We in Evansville are fortunate to have two fine universities, and I am proud to support both. As a former teacher, I realize that competent, caring teachers are precious commodities. I hope this gift will help provide our elementary and secondary schools with exceptional teachers for years to come."

In expressing the University's gratitude for the generous gift, Dr. Hoops said that the gift not only was extraordinary, but especially meaningful because it comes from a respected teacher who continues to have a great love for her profession. Mrs. Suhrheinrich taught in Evansville's Vogel School for seven years until 1944 and she continues to get together with former students. Mrs. Suhrheinrich and her husband Bill, who died in 1985, were natives of the Evansville area. His business career at Mead Johnson Company took them to St. Louis, Des Moines, and Chicago before returning to Evansville.

Evansville's leading philanthropist, Mrs. Suhrheinrich has made generous gifts to many local charities and has established an endowment fund in the Vanderburgh Community Foundation.

Dr. Hoops added that it is unusual for a school of education at a university the size and age of University of Southern Indiana to receive such a large gift. USI was established in 1965 and enrolled 8,300 students this fall. The Bower-Suhrheinrich School of Education and Human Services has 1,365 students, 33 full-time faculty, and 2,533 alumni.

The \$1 million gift takes *Campaign USI* over its base goal and moves it to 72 percent of its challenge goal of \$16 million.

James G. Giancola, chair of *Campaign USI*, says he believes the challenge goal is attainable. "The Friends Division is just beginning and we believe there are other friends of USI who have a strong interest in ensuring the success of this campaign, thereby elevating the level of service of the University. We still need to raise over \$1 million for state-of-the-art instructional technology in the new Liberal Arts Center. We also hope faculty enhancement endowments of at least \$100,000 will be established for the schools of Business, Liberal Arts, and Science and Engineering Technology." The William and Trudy Mitchell Faculty Enhancement Endowment has been established for the School of Nursing and Health Professions.