

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 8, 1972

Earth was officially turned in a 4:00 p.m. ceremony for the University Center building project at Indiana State University Evansville on Wednesday, November 8. Alan C. Rankin, President of Indiana State University, presided at the ceremony.

The ceremony, adapted to the farm setting that occupied the land before the development of the Mid-American University Center, employed selected tools representing the agricultural heritage of this area of the state.

A plow was furnished by Burch Plow Works, Inc., Evansville manufacturers of plows since 1867, to turn the land in the symbolic transition from agricultural utilization of natural resources to utilization for the cultivation of learning. The rope to pull the plow, symbolic of the many intellectual, cultural, and economic fibers of the region, was provided from the Southwind Port in Mt. Vernon, Indiana.

The groundbreaking teams that provided the power to move the plow included student organizations, led by plowmen David K. Baumgart, Indiana State University Evansville Student Body President; ISU Board of Trustees, ISUE Advisory Board, ISUE Foundation Board of Directors, and Southern Indiana Higher Education Board of Directors, led by William Hitch, President

INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY EVANSVILLE

8600 University Boulevard

Evansville, Indiana 47712

of the ISU Board of Trustees; political community, James Buthod, county commissioner, representing Mayor Russell Lloyd; business and industry, Francis Knowles, President, Mt. Vernon Chamber of Commerce; architects, contractors and skilled labor, Wallace Given of Hironimus Knapp Given Associates; Century Club and alumni, Al Burch, President, Burch Plow Works, and ISUE students, faculty and administration, Eliseo DaRosa, Chairman, ISUE faculty council.

Joseph E. O'Daniel, Indiana State University Evansville Foundation President, introduced the Donor Recognition Program the Foundation is initiating with the groundbreaking ceremonies. The Donor Recognition Program provides opportunities for individuals, families, organizations and companies to furnish rooms or area in the University Center and to specify a memorial or family name recognition room designation.

According to David L. Rice, President of Indiana State University Evansville, "The University Center, a 2.1 million dollar building project to be located west of the Library, will provide facilities for recreation, office space for student union, student government, and student organizations; student lounge; food service and dining area, and the University Bookstore."

The University Center is expected to be completed in December, 1973. Hironimus Knapp and Given Associates of Evansville, Indiana, are architects on the project, and Ewing Miller Associates of Terre Haute, Indiana, served as design architects. Contracts for the University Center will be awarded to Deig Brothers Lumber and Construction Company for general construction; Kuebler Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc., for mechanical work, and Roettger Electric Company for electrical work.