

March 7, 2001

**Opening of Recreation and Fitness Center set for noon on Monday, March 12 at University of Southern Indiana**

When USI students return from spring break on Monday, March 12, they'll be introduced to a new \$4.7 million Recreation and Fitness Center scheduled to open with a special ribbon-breaking event at noon that day. In a marathon race atmosphere, students will "race" through a ceremonial ribbon and into the new facility.

Construction of the three-story, 46,000 square foot facility began in November 1999. The building will feature a mirrored group exercise room, two wood-floor playing courts, a mirrored fitness area, suspended mondo track for walking and running, billiards area, and locker and shower facilities. It is located south of the Physical Activities Center. This student-initiated project is being funded through student fees. It will be available for students, faculty, and staff.

The new facility will replace the off-campus Student Fitness Center in the University Village Shopping Center.

Tours will be available following the ribbon-breaking ceremony and healthy refreshments will be served.

Sent to: photo desk and Pat Swanson, *Courier & Press*; *Mt. Vernon Democrat*; Randy Wheeler-WIKY; Warren Korff-WGBF; local television assignment editors; *The Shield*, WSWI