



# NEWS RELEASE

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## University/community collaboration brings third graders together

Twelve University of Southern Indiana teacher education students and Culver Elementary school's third grade class will host the third grade class of Otwell Elementary school, Otwell, Indiana, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, May 7 at Culver Elementary School, 1301 Judson., in a rural/urban exchange program developed by Dr. Donna Stieg Wasson, USI assistant professor of education.

USI students **Mary Balbach** of Dale, **Beth Centifanto** of Wadesville, **William Cox** of Vincennes, **Missy Dodds** of Heltonville, **Lynn Farmer** of Evansville, **Sara Guth** of Santa Claus, **Jill Kiefer** of Evansville, **Ryan Leeds** of Evansville, **Heather Nelson** of West Baden, **Andrew Peterson** of Evansville, **Dana Reedy** of Evansville, and **Amy Weslander** of Floyds Knob spent fall 1997 teaching at Culver Elementary school while learning social studies teaching methods in their Education 388 course. As part of their course experience, they accompanied their third grade class to Otwell Elementary school to allow both groups of third graders to experience each other's diverse school cultures. In reciprocation for the field trip, our USI students and the Culver Elementary third grade class will host the Otwell students.

Dr. Linda Black, Otwell principal; Ms. Kim Russel, Otwell third grade teacher; Ms. Lana Burton, Culver principal; and Mr. Tom Vanhooser, Culver third grade teacher worked closely with Dr. Wasson and also participated in their own exchange in their teaching and administrative capacities.

The Otwell students will arrive at Culver Elementary and spend a semi-normal school day with the Culver students. The lesson plan for the day was developed by the USI students and the Culver students will participate by teaching the Otwell students about their urban school community.

### Photo opportunities:

9:45 a.m. - 10 a.m.	arrival and opening in auditorium
10 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.	gym class, games
10:40 a.m. - 11 a.m.	drill team presentation
11 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.	tour of Culver Elementary (student teachers will be with pupils)
11:40 a.m. - noon	lunch
noon - 12:20 p.m.	recess
12:20 p.m. - 1 p.m.	friendship quilt (pupils pair up with USI students and make a quilt piece, pupils will trade pieces and take them back to make a quilt in the future)
1 p.m. - 1:30	pictures and goodbyes