

USI provost to serve on national project

Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at the University of Southern Indiana, is one of three Indiana higher education administrators, among 78 public college and university administrators across the country, to be selected to develop recommendations for a Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA).

The project is a partnership between the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC). She will serve as a member of the Task Force on Student and Family Information, to help identify what information is most helpful to prospective students and their families in deciding which university is the best educational fit. She will serve with administrators from University of Tennessee System, Fairmont State University, University of Maine-Fort Kent, Alabama A & M University, University of California-Berkeley, University of Minnesota, University of North Texas, Minnesota State University-Mankato; University of Wisconsin Extension, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and California State University-Sacramento.

Other Indiana participants are Ruth Person, chancellor, Indiana University Kokomo, chair of the Task Force on System Design and Information and Gary Pike, executive director, Information Management and Institutional Improvement, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, a member of the Technical Work Group Student Growth Outcomes. A total of six task forces and technical work groups plus a presidential advisory committee make up the VSA Project.

In 2006, NASULGC and AASCU consulted with various education officials, public policymakers, and academic leaders on ways that public higher education can become more accountable to the public on learning outcomes and campus engagement while also providing additional information to students and families to aid them in the selection process. The result is the Voluntary System of Accountability Project. The project is made possible by a \$267,900 grant from the Lumina Foundation for Education.

During 2007, the participants will work as task forces and technical work groups developing a system of accountability that could be adopted at any public college or university.