



NEWS RELEASE

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USI School of Business awarded premier accreditation

AACSB-The International Association for Management Education*, the premier accrediting agency for academic programs in business administration and accounting, has approved initial accreditation of the baccalaureate and master's degree programs in business offered by the University of Southern Indiana effective immediately. USI joins a select group of 335 AACSB-accredited programs among the more than 1,200 college and university business programs nationwide. The accreditation is for a ten-year period, with an interim report due to the accreditation agency in five years.

A comprehensive accreditation process, AACSB evaluates a school's physical facilities, the technological resources, the faculty, the curriculum, and the quality improvement process in place.

Commenting on the approval, Philip C. Fisher, dean of the USI School of Business, said, "Gaining AACSB accreditation has made us a much stronger school. It required us to meet tough standards for the quality of our faculty, our curriculum, and our technology. It also required us to demonstrate that we are managing for continuous improvement.

"Getting to this point required an increased investment by the university of over \$800,000 for more faculty and improved technology and about \$300,000 in contributions by alumni and area businesses for faculty development, Fisher added. "It should improve job opportunities for our students because employers can be assured that we meet the most rigorous standards for business accreditation, and it should mean that our undergraduate and graduate students will be able to transfer credits into any business school in the country."

USI President H. Ray Hoops lauded the endorsement. He said, "Conferral of accreditation reflects dramatically the University of Southern Indiana's commitment to bring the finest education possible to the people of this region. This accreditation would not have been won had it not been for the discipline and determination of the faculty of the School of Business who committed themselves to meet the high standards set by the AACSB. We also are deeply indebted to the business community and friends of the University who extended valuable financial resources to make the faculty commitment possible."

The USI School of Business is located in the Robert D. Orr Center, a modern multi-million dollar classroom and office building on the campus which opened in 1990. The school was one of the original academic divisions that accepted students when the University was established in 1965. The school has over 1,600 undergraduate students, 200 graduate students, 36 full-time faculty, and 4,800 alumni. USI is a comprehensive public university located in Evansville, Indiana with over 8,300 students enrolled in baccalaureate and master's degree programs in five academic schools.

* *Note to reporters:* The AACSB - The International Association for Management Education, formerly known as the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business, adopted the new name in July of this year to better reflect its international membership. Organized in 1916, AACSB founding members include such schools as Columbia University, Cornell University, Harvard University, University of Chicago, the University of Illinois, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Texas, and Yale University.