

**USI REPORTS RECORD**

**ENROLLMENT FOR '85-'86**

# NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Sherrienne Standley, Office of the President  
(812) 464-1902

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NEW HARMONY, INDIANA -- The University of Southern Indiana reached a record enrollment for the 1985-86 academic year, the Board of Trustees was told today by USI President David L. Rice.

Dr. Rice said the official enrollment figure of 4,025 is 177 students more than the 3,848 enrolled for 1984-85, a 4.6 percent increase.

He said he believes the increase, which is contrary to nationwide trends, is a result of greater awareness in the Tri-State that public higher educational opportunities are available at USI.

"We are beginning to have an impact on the number of people going on to college," he said, referring to statistics that show Indiana lagging behind the nation and Southwest Indiana running even farther behind in the number of people who go on to higher education.

The USI Board held its September meeting in New Harmony to gain familiarity with the Historic New Harmony, Inc., facilities which have been managed by USI since the first of the year.

In other business, board members authorized university officials to open negotiations for a proposal that would allow WNIN-Channel 9 public television and radio to be relocated on the USI campus.

WNIN officials have searched for years for a new site for their facilities, now housed in the old McCutchanville School north of Evansville. The school has been purchased by the McCutchanville Fire Department. Adequate

(MORE)

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8600 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD · EVANSVILLE, INDIANA 47712

land for development of a radio-television complex is available on the USI campus or on adjacent parcels owned by the USI Foundation and Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc.

Dr. Rice has stressed that negotiations are in preliminary stages. David Dial, WNIN general manager, has said the advantages of relocating to the USI campus would make it a "win-win situation." The university would benefit from having an on-the-job training site for communications majors, while the station would benefit from student, staff, and faculty expertise.

The association might also enhance television instruction through IHETS (Indiana Higher Education Telecommunications System), the closed-circuit television service that allows schools to broadcast lectures and other programs to other universities and colleges throughout the state. USI now can receive the system's programs, but cannot originate them.

The WNIN plan was among several USI development proposals considered by the Board. Other programs receiving board support included:

\* A Bachelor of Occupational Studies (B.O.S.) program which can be started in the fall of 1986, giving Hoosier students who have graduated from vocational colleges their first opportunity to apply their associate degree credits to the completion of a baccalaureate degree. The program would be developed initially in cooperation with Indiana Vocational Technical College Southwest at Evansville and Vincennes University, with the prospect that it can be offered to all IVTC graduates in Indiana in the future.

\* A Higher Education Services Plan that outlines short- and long-term development proposals for USI. The 1986-96 plan calls for implementation of other new degree programs, such as a baccalaureate degree in wellness and physical education, a Bachelor of Social Work degree, a master's degree program in health-related psychology, an added option in industrial engineering technology, and a baccalaureate degree in geology, as well as expanding the graduate degree programs. Long-range capital improvement proposals include construction of a new classroom building, a health professions building, a central stores facility, and major expansion or remodeling of existing facilities.

Short-term proposals outline the addition of baccalaureate and master's programs and call for continual attention to high-demand disciplines and basic support needs.