

DR. MELVIN DENNER NAMED
INDIANA PROFESSOR OF YEAR
BY NATIONAL EDUCATION GROUP



NEWS RELEASE

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Dr. Melvin W. Denner, professor of biology at the University of Southern Indiana, has been named Indiana Professor of the Year in the 1988 state Professor of the Year competition sponsored by the national Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

Winners are being recognized during National Higher Education Week, October 9-15. Governor Robert D. Orr will present a certificate to Dr. Denner in a ceremony at 9:15 a.m. Thursday, October 13, in the Governor's office.

Dr. Denner is among 30 college and university professors selected for the 1988 state honors by CASE, with a panel of more than 40 jurors making the selections from 464 nominations. Professors were judged on their abilities as teachers, service to their institutions and professions, achievement in teaching and scholarship, and achievement by former students.

Dr. Denner, who has spent 20 years with USI's Division of Science and Mathematics (now the School of Science and Engineering Technology), was honored earlier this year by the University when he was presented the National City Bank Distinguished Professor Award. This is a faculty recognition for professors who have demonstrated a dedication to teaching and a quest for excellence. It is supported by a \$1,000 grant from National City Bank.

Letters from colleagues and USI graduates supporting Dr. Denner's nomination for both the Distinguished Professor Award and CASE Indiana Professor of the Year uniformly praise his efforts in developing University programs, but more importantly, his influence as a teacher and advisor in developing students.

Graduates credited Dr. Denner with having molded not only their college careers but their self-esteem, instilling in them the desire to give the 100 percent effort he expected of them. The fact that USI graduates have enjoyed high success in graduate schools of their choice also was attributed to Dr. Denner's inspiration.

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Both graduates and colleagues praised him also for interest and assistance to them personally that continued beyond any time he might have been expected to devote to them.

Dr. Denner has been involved with the development of programs in Allied Health, Engineering Technology, Medical Technology, nursing, biophysics, and computer science, and was a co-author of the University Self Study for accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

He has received several outstanding teacher awards, including Professor of the Year for 1970, 1972, 1976, and 1977, an Honorary Alumnus Award in 1976, and the Iowa State University Alumni Association Recognition Award in 1982.

Dr. Denner joined the USI faculty in 1968 as an assistant professor of biology, following four years as an instructor at Iowa State University, the final year as an NIH Fellow. He became acting chairman of the Division of Science and Mathematics by the mid-1970s and permanent chairman in 1978, holding that post for a decade before he returned to primarily teaching activities and advisor to pre-med students. He also has been active with most Faculty Council and other University committees, as well as numerous professional associations.

Dr. Denner received his B.S. degree from Upper Iowa University, his M.S. from the University of Kentucky, and his Ph.D. from Iowa State. He also studied at Vanderbilt in 1973 and was a visiting professor in zoology at Clemson University in South Carolina during the spring semester of 1975.