

For immediate release
News from the University of Southern Indiana

Institutional Research and Assessment director named

A research consultant and president of Draughon Research, LLC has been named the director of Institutional Research and Assessment at the University of Southern Indiana effective immediately.

Dr. Katherine A. Draughon (pronounced “drawn”) has been an Evansville resident since 2002. Her firm provides research services in project management, study design, questionnaire development, focus group moderation, data collection, statistical analysis, and more for universities, non-profit groups, state agencies, and commercial firms.

The director reports to Dr. Linda Bennett, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at USI.

Dr. Bennett said, “We were fortunate to find someone with Dr. Draughon’s qualifications and even more fortunate that she was an Evansville resident. Her experience in survey research and research methods will serve USI’s Office of Institutional Research and Assessment well. This is an exciting hire for us, and she will enhance the role of institutional research on the USI campus.”

Dr. Draughon will work closely with academic units to collect and analyze student learning outcomes data and will design, measure, and collect data to assess university-wide goals and objectives. She will design, implement, and manage a university-wide decision support data warehouse.

Before coming to Evansville, Dr. Draughon was assistant director/research professor of the Survey Research Laboratory for the University of South Carolina’s Institute for Public Service and Policy Research. Earlier she served as senior project coordinator of the Survey Research Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She held a faculty position with the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine for the USC School of Medicine and with the Norman J. Arnold School of Public Health in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at USC.

She is the associate chair of membership and a member of the Long-Term Planning Committee for the Executive Council of the American Association for Public Opinion Research. Last year she was named a Mid-America Regional Public Health Leadership Institute Fellow. The MARPHLI is a year-long leadership development experience for public health practitioners and community partners.

She is an authority on disaster preparedness, survey methodology, and various public health topics.

In Evansville she is active with the Metropolitan Evansville Chamber of Commerce, the Advertising Club of Evansville, and ANEW – A Network of Evansville Women.

Her volunteer activities extend to the American Red Cross, Southwestern Indiana Chapter; the Albion Fellows Bacon Center; and the Vanderburgh Humane Society. She is Speakers Bureau chair for disaster preparedness, a sexual assault victim advocate, and offers pet-assisted therapy by taking shelter animals to nursing homes for one-on-one visits with residents.

Her advanced degrees are from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She earned a M.P.H. degree through the Department of Public Health and a doctorate from the Department of Sociology.