



# NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

## News from the University of Southern Indiana

### **"Connect with Southern Indiana" Applications Being Accepted**

A new program is beginning in southern Indiana that aims at enhancing the quality of citizenship in the region. Sally Lambert of Warrick County is a member of the program's advisory committee.

"Connect with Southern Indiana" is being spearheaded by the University of Southern Indiana, with funding from the Lilly Endowment that supports the retention of Indiana's intellectual capital.

The heart of the program is strengthening the decision-making skills of participants and raising their level of involvement in community and regional organizations. Participants will receive resources for community and regional assessment, self-development, presentation skills, goal-setting, and creation, management, and completion of projects.

Recruitment of applicants for a pilot project in 2006 has begun. Lambert along other Advisory Committee members, who have worked with USI faculty and staff in developing the course, will assist in selection of participants. Candidates must be residents of Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh, or Warrick counties and should have lived in this region at least one year. Twenty-four people, representing the eight counties, will be selected to participate. The project, which starts in January 2006 and ends in September 2006, will create ongoing opportunities for civic involvement.

Applicants who are chosen to participate will be required to attend nine programs, a half-to full-day in length, and give additional time to complete special projects. There will be no charge to participate in the pilot project due to Lilly Endowment funding. Subsequent programs are planned for 2007 and beyond.

The deadline for accepting applications is October 10, 2005. For more information on "Connect with Southern Indiana" visit the Web site at [www.usi.edu/extserv/connect.asp](http://www.usi.edu/extserv/connect.asp) or contact Darrel E. Bigham, director of Historic Southern Indiana project and professor of history, at the University of Southern Indiana at 812/464-1863, or via e-mail at [dbigham@usi.edu](mailto:dbigham@usi.edu).