



NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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USI TO OFFER SUMMER PROGRAM FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS INTERESTED IN CAREERS IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

The University of Southern Indiana is offering a five-week summer program for middle school students who might be considering careers in science and engineering. Career Awareness in Science and Engineering (CASE) will meet June 24 through July 31 at USI. Augustine J. Fredrich, chairperson of Engineering Technology and professor of civil engineering technology, is the program director.

Commenting on the intent of the program, Fredrich said, "We want to instill an enthusiasm for science and engineering in the participants. Through field trips, guest lecturers, and participation of our own students, we want to make middle school students aware early enough in their academic careers to properly prepare themselves for the study of science or engineering in college." He added, "We have a dual purpose in the program. We also want to enhance their academic ability and make them better students. We plan to have them participate in the labs, have a dialogue with current college students about science and engineering courses, and meet professionals in the field. The schedule was designed to give participants an appreciation for both the challenges and rewards of careers in science and engineering."

CASE will be conducted on the USI campus and will use the University's classrooms, laboratories, library and computer facilities. Instructors for the program will be from the USI faculty as well as from the faculty of area secondary and middle schools. The CASE assistants will be college students majoring in science or engineering.

Students who have just completed the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades will be eligible to participate in the program. Forty students will be selected for the first class.

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Tuition will be \$100, with scholarships available.

Estimated cost of the CASE program is \$50,000. The funding for the program has come from a number of sources including local business and industry which recognized the shortfall of persons in the science-engineering professions. George Koch Sons has taken the lead by issuing a challenge to businesses and individuals in the community. They plan to match \$1 for every \$2 raised. Other underwriters include the USI Foundation, the Lilly Foundation Extended University Program, the Tri-State Council on Science and Engineering, local chapters of scientific and engineering societies, and consulting engineering firms.

Students are being recruited through science teachers and school principals. Persons interested in the program are urged to contact the USI Department of Engineering Technology, 812/464-1877.