

FYI TO ALL LOCAL MEDIA:

**INDIANA COLLEGE NETWORK
DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM
TO BE INAUGURATED STATEWIDE**



**NEWS
RELEASE**

CONTACT:
Kathy Funke, Director
News & Information Services
812/465-7005
FAX 812/464-1956

Indiana's higher education officials will meet in Indianapolis on Thursday, July 21, and plan to gather at 2 p.m. for a news conference launching a statewide distance education program -- the Indiana College Network (ICN) -- which is designed to bring higher education courses to Hoosiers who for varying reasons cannot make it to a campus.

The news conference will be held in room 2132 of the Education/Social Work Building, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, and will be aired live on the Indiana Higher Education Telecommunication System (IHETS); there will be two-way interactive audio hookups for media questions at 11 institutions around Indiana.

The Evansville site is room 350 in the University Center at the University of Southern Indiana. USI President Dr. H. Ray Hoops will be at the Indianapolis site and available for calls originating from USI and elsewhere on the IHETS hookup. Dr. M. Edward Jones, USI associate vice president for Academic Affairs and director of Extended Services, will be available in UC350 to discuss the program with local media. ICN materials will be available at all broadcast sites.

ICN is the brainchild of the Indiana Partnership for Statewide Education (IPSE). It will allow Hoosiers to earn an associate degree or other program credits in television classes transmitted from the participating Indiana colleges via IHETS. In addition to USI, the IPSE members include Ball State, Indiana State, Indiana University, Ivy Tech, Purdue, Vincennes, the Independent Colleges of Indiana, and IHETS.

A three-week promotion campaign -- direct mail, newspaper ads, radio PSAs, and television commercials -- is being launched next week to inform Indiana residents of ICN availability and the ease of registration. A toll-free number will be available for registration and course catalog information. Students will be assigned a home institution which will maintain records and transcripts. After a student earns 12 hours of course credit, an ICN institution will be designated for completing a degree. Up to 30 hours of course credit from IPSE institutions can be transferred toward a degree.

At the news conference, John E. Worthen, president of Ball State, and Steven C. Beering, president of Purdue, will discuss the opportunities ICN will bring to Hoosier higher education. Kathy Krendl, dean of the IU School of Continuing Studies, will discuss details of the ICN operation.

7/19/91