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NEWS RELEASE

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GATEWAY CENTER PROGRAMS TO BE MOVED TO MAIN CAMPUS

The services offered through University of Southern Indiana's Gateway Center to help students in the near-Downtown area gain the skills they need to attend college or seek better jobs are being centralized on the USI campus. A letter is being sent to currently enrolled students telling them about the change to go into effect on May 6, the end of the current semester.

Opened in 1989 as a two-year outreach program to inner city low-income adults, Gateway Center was established when limited public transportation was available to campus and few resources were available to provide such specialized academic support as computer-based tutoring and academic skills development in critical reading.

Students at Gateway have had a limited range of classes, instructors, and advisors from which to choose. They also have voiced concern because the transition from the small, intensive classes at Gateway to the mainstream of campus life has been difficult.

In this academic year Gateway Center's programs were reviewed by an advisory committee of students, community leaders, and University representatives. A report from the committee pointed to several concerns. Because Gateway is located off-campus, Gateway students are isolated from extensive academic resources in the Learning Center and the Library. In addition they are removed from student services offices and the programs those offices provide such as counseling and student activities.

Dr. M. Edward Jones, director of Extended Services which operates Gateway Center, said, "The minority population can be served better by taking advantage of support services available on campus. Students at the off-campus site missed the interchange with other students on campus and they lacked contact with an advisor in their field. With the addition of the Multicultural Center, students can participate more readily in activities and other student life programs."

Since the Center began, USI has expanded the academic support resources available on campus, increased the size and offerings of the Learning Center, and established an on-campus Multicultural Center which focuses on the cultural and social needs of under-represented campus groups. An advisor whose primary focus will be multicultural concerns will be added in the fall semester. The public transportation system has extended its routes, including more scheduled runs to USI, and on-campus child care is available to students.

The Gateway program will be combined with new programs available through the Multicultural Center and University Division to provide continuing opportunity and support to students.

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