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For Immediate Release

### **USI Chemistry Department receives American Chemical Society approval**

The University of Southern Indiana Chemistry Department has received American Chemical Society (ACS) approval for its undergraduate program. Chemistry is a department of the Pott School of Science and Engineering Technology.

Dr. Marie Hankins, chair of the department, said the endorsement is important for students who are enrolled in the program and for those considering enrolling. She said, "An ACS approval means the program was reviewed by experienced educators and scientists. Such approval will assure students of a quality program at USI. The evaluation process extended over a two-year period and included an application process, a presentation to the national ACS professional training committee, and a site visit," Dr. Hankins explained.

Chemistry is an important component of many disciplines. The ACS recommends that the chemistry program do more than just train professional chemists. The USI chemistry curriculum includes courses designed for science students, for students seeking a liberal arts education, and for students pursuing a degree in a variety of allied health fields. Several chemistry courses are offered as one of the options in the University Core Curriculum, the general education program required of all graduates.

The Chemistry Department is one of the original academic programs of the University with a current seven-member faculty and more than one hundred alumni. Generally, five to ten chemistry majors graduate each year. The ACS Student Affiliate chapter at USI has been selected as an outstanding or commendable chapter nearly every year for the past decade. Students in the department present at local, state, regional and national meetings. They compete in regional and national competitions and organize chemistry demonstrations for middle school students to encourage interest in the field. Many graduates continue at graduate schools throughout the country.

The American Chemical Society, established in 1876, is the world's largest scientific society. It encourages the broadest and most liberal manner of the advancement of chemistry. It enriches professionals in academic and private industry through development programs, peer interaction, and continuing education courses. It promotes scientific interest and inquiry fostering public education and welfare.

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