



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **USI enrollment up 3 percent; freshman enrollment jumps 22 percent**

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Fall enrollment at the University of Southern Indiana reached 7,666, three percent higher than in fall 1994, with several factors entering into the University returning to a positive figure after last year's decline.

USI President H. Ray Hoops, citing the fact that 92 percent (7,059) come from Indiana, said, "More Hoosiers are coming from distant counties to become full-time residential students." The growth in full-time students "is a pattern we expect will continue into the future," he said, "as we seek to assist the state of Indiana in reaching its goal of adding 20,000 students in postsecondary education by 1997."

"We may not see an annual increase as dramatic as the 22 percent jump we had in freshman enrollment this fall, but we do expect to continue a steady pace of growth," Dr. Hoops added. The 1995 freshman class is the largest in the University's 30-year history -- 1,535, compared to 1,256 in fall 1994, helping to offset the graduation of nearly 1,000 students last May.

Dr. John Byrd, vice president for Student Affairs, said USI's reputation is spreading across the state. "The refrain we have heard over and over from parents and students, as the students registered, is that they are attracted by the quality of the academic programs offered at USI," Dr. Byrd explained.

The fall enrollment shows 87 Indiana counties, 32 states, and 36 nations represented, Dr. Hoops noted this mix of students is helping to create cultural and ethnic diversity, as well as a balance of students who are choosing their courses of study from across the curriculum.

The early registration figures show:

\* Registration from Vanderburgh and the other counties in Region 13 was 6,010, up 1.6 percent (93 students) over 1994.

(more)

- \* Registrations from Indiana outside of Region 13 total 1,049, a 22 percent increase (192 students) over 1994.
- \* Readmissions -- students who have discontinued their studies for a variety of reasons and now are returning to the classroom -- stood at 740, a 16 percent increase (102 students) over 1994.
- \* There were 4,611 registered as full-time students, a seven percent increase.
- \* Graduate-student registration climbed 10 percent, from 409 in 1994 to 451 this fall.
- \* The 60/40 female/male ratio held steady.