



NEWS RELEASE

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

For release January 22, 1999, 11 am

CAMPAIGN USI EXCEEDS CAMPAIGN GOALS THANKS TO LARGEST GIFT EVER TO UNIVERSITY

The University of Southern Indiana's first capital campaign has exceeded its \$10.5 million goal, raising over \$18 million in gifts and pledges and an additional \$6 million in deferred gifts. Before the campaign closed, it received a \$2 million gift from the Robert H. and Elaine H. Pott Foundation. The Pott Foundation gift, USI's largest single gift ever, will endow the School of Science and Engineering Technology, which will be named for the donors.

The gift will be used as an endowment which will provide an annual source of funds for student scholarships, faculty and student research, a lecture series to expose students and faculty to experts in scientific fields, and for faculty members to participate in activities which will keep their knowledge current in their fields.

Dr. Jerry Cain, dean of the newly-named Robert and Elaine Pott School of Science and Engineering Technology, spoke of the importance of this funding in scientific fields. "Scientific knowledge is changing rapidly and it is imperative that our professors keep pace with new information and new technology appropriate to their academic specialities. The beneficiaries of this fund will be the students who obtain the latest information in the classroom and the people in the southern Indiana community who come to our faculty seeking expertise for community progress."

Dr. Cain said the endowment meets critical needs. "Scientific disciplines, by their very nature, are equipment intensive and routinely employ various types of scientific instrumentation and computer software. USI uses its equipment heavily and there are never enough resources for all our needs. And scholarships are necessary to recruit Indiana's finest students to USI's science, pre-medical, and engineering technology programs."

In announcing the campaign totals, campaign chair James G. Giancola noted the generosity of employees, alumni, board members, and community friends. "When we exceeded our \$10.5 million goal last summer, we continued to be optimistic that we might reach our challenge goal of \$16 million, but to exceed it by \$2 million is extraordinary," Giancola said. He attributed the campaign's success to "the high regard donors have for the University's role in providing educational programs" and to the dedication of the 300 volunteers "whose efforts ensured we would reach campaign goals."

The Robert and Elaine Pott Foundation was created in a 1963 trust agreement with Citizens Bank as a perpetual charitable trust to benefit educational institutions in Indiana and Wisconsin which have engineering programs. Robert H. Pott, who with his wife Elaine established the trust, was a native of Wisconsin who moved to Evansville to become plant superintendent of Vulcan Plow Works. His wife was a native of South Bend, Indiana. Largely self-educated, Mr. Pott was an inventor who designed the impact wrench, which became famous as the Ingersol-Rand Impact Wrench, used widely by the government during World War II and still used throughout the world.

Fascinated by scientific and technological advancements, Mr. Pott was an early enthusiast in the field of high fidelity music, enjoying acoustical speakers and an electric organ in his home before they were commonplace. The water-cooled air-conditioning system he developed for his home in the early forties was one of the first in Evansville. It operated by running cool well water through a coil, and he even engineered it so that the surplus water could be recycled to water his lawn. A horticulturist, he grew orchids in his backyard greenhouse and created an automatic climate control system of the type later adapted for use in commercial greenhouses. Those who knew him spoke of him as a superb mechanic and craftsman. He also was a shrewd businessman, owning the first Grade A dairy farm in southern Indiana and providing early financial assistance to expand Dale Sales Company.

In establishing the trust creating the Pott Foundation, he consulted with his brother Herman T. Pott of St. Louis, the founder and major shareholder of Pott Industries, a multimillion dollar corporate enterprise which built river tow boats and barges and provided marine services.

Robert Pott died in 1964 and Elaine Pott died in 1974. The entire residuary estate of this couple was left to their charitable foundation. For more than two decades, the trust has been managed by Citizens Trust, growing the principal to a size capable of making this largest single gift ever received by the University of Southern Indiana.

In announcing *Campaign USI* totals, USI President H. Ray Hoops said the campaign's impact will be felt for years into the future. "When you combine the gifts and pledges of \$18 million with the deferred gifts of more than \$6 million, the total impact is more than \$24 million. Without a doubt, this campaign has positioned the University of Southern Indiana to leap into the next millennium," he said.

President Hoops expressed his gratitude to those who made investments in the University, saying "These are sound investments in the future of our state, our community, and Hoosier young people. The University will be a careful steward of these resources and will use them to return maximum benefits to the community."

Campaign USI had four featured objectives, each which exceeded its base goal:

Featured Objectives	Total Raised
Presidential Scholarships	\$2.7 million
Faculty Enhancement	\$2.47 million
Technology & Equipment	\$1.73 million
Student Life Enrichment	\$1.01 million

In addition to these totals, the campaign has received \$1.2 million in unrestricted gifts to the featured objectives, bringing the total raised for featured objectives to \$9.1 million. The unrestricted dollars will be allocated to underfunded projects, such as instructional technology for the new Liberal Arts Center. Another \$8.9 million was received for ongoing annual giving programs and \$6 million was pledged in deferred gifts.

More.....

The campaign lasted two and one-half years, beginning July 1, 1996 and concluding December 31, 1998. Campaign highlights include:

- A \$2 million gift from the Robert H. and Elaine H. Pott Foundation will endow programs for the School of Science and Engineering Technology; it is the largest single gift ever received by the USI Foundation.
- A \$1 million leadership gift made by Jennings D. "Nick" Carter to kick off the campaign, included \$500,000 to complete the University Center expansion, by finishing the University's first banquet facility, Josephine K. Carter Hall.
- A \$1 million gift from Dallas Bower Suhrheinrich endowed programs for the School of Education and Human Services, which was named in her honor.
- The University's first endowed academic chair, The Blair Chair in Marketing Science, was established with a \$500,000 gift from Meg and Lori Blair.
- Gifts to Presidential Scholarships will fund over half of the program's annual scholarship needs. Ten students a year are offered these prestigious full scholarships with 40 students enrolled at any one time.
- Important instructional areas in the Liberal Arts Center were funded, as follows:
 - Scripps-Howard Center for Media Studies
 - Helen M. Mallette Studio Theatre
 - Anna Lee Hamilton Music Studio
 - Clifford and Ruth Kleymeyer Lecture Hall
 - Cynderella McDowell Miller Foreign Language Laboratory
- Two new science laboratories were equipped in the Science Center:
 - Black Beauty Coal Chemistry Laboratory
 - Torrington Chemistry Research Laboratory
- Team Rooms for men's and women's sports and a new Varsity Club Room were completed in the Physical Activities Center.
- The first formal student leadership program, the Joseph E. O'Daniel Leadership Academy, was endowed.
- Named faculty enhancement endowments were created in two academic schools, while two university-wide endowments, one created through the Vanderburgh Community Foundation, will aid the faculty in all disciplines.

USI Foundation chair Robert E. Griffin echoed President Hoops' comments, saying that the long-term impact also will be felt in the USI Foundation. "The foundation's permanently-restricted assets, those we tend to think of as endowments, have increased three-and-a-half times since the campaign opened," he said. "These assets will be used to ensure that USI has a vibrant environment where teaching and learning will thrive."