

For Immediate Release

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Jasper Action Team will meet with University of Southern Indiana task force

The Jasper Action Team of the Jasper Chamber of Commerce, serving as a focus group for the University of Southern Indiana, will meet at noon on Monday, March 13 at the Holiday Inn Sycamore Room in Jasper. Nancy Eckerle, executive director of the Jasper Chamber of Commerce and a member of USI's Community Advisory Panel, arranged the meeting.

Eckerle and Kimball International executive Gary Schwartz, another Dubois County representative on the USI Community Advisory Panel, will join the Jasper Action Team and interact with USI representatives at the meeting. The University is seeking input from manufacturing, industry, and service providers to gain opinions about future workforce and economic development needs of Dubois County and determine how USI can help meet those needs.

USI President H. Ray Hoops organized a university task force to undertake a comprehensive study of regional economic conditions, review the university's curriculum, and determine how USI academic programs can meet the future workforce and economic development needs of this region of the state. The Community Advisory Panel serves as a consulting unit for the task force.

The Community Advisory Panel is composed of representatives from the tri-state and the eleven counties in southern Indiana that make up Region 13, USI's principal service region. "This is an integrated and coordinated relationship between the service region and USI," said Dr. Hoops. "Their recommendations will help us set priorities and plan for implementation and resources."