

For Immediate Release  
May 18, 2000

**High school students to speak on environment at speech contest**

Six local high school students will speak on the environment and quality of life in southwestern Indiana at the Pigeon Creek Greenway and Carver Environmental Justice Task Force speech contest at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 20 in Mitchell Auditorium (Health Professions Center) at the University of Southern Indiana. Each contestant will present a five to seven minute original oratory. The public is welcome.

The first place award is \$250 and second place is \$100. Schools represented are Central, North, Mater Dei, and Reitz. Some of the students competing have been top-place finishers in state and national competitions.

Winners will be recognized at Pigeon Creek Greenway Day celebration on June 3 at the new fieldhouse on Uhlhorn Street and First Avenue.

The contest offers the public the opportunity to hear youth present their talents and views in a public forum. Coordinators for the event are Deke Gunderson, assistant professor of biology at USI, Gail Riecken, chair of marketing and education committee for Pigeon Creek Greenway, David Wagner, James Mosley, and Stephanie Sebree of Carver task force.

The Carver Community Task Force participates in area science fairs working to promote opportunities for youth. This is the first time they have teamed with Pigeon Creek Greenway to educate the public about the importance of protecting the environment.