



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **USI Alumni Association to honor Nancy L. Johnson, Nadine A. Coudret, Eric R. Williams, and Caitlin S. Gray**

The University of Southern Indiana Alumni Association will honor three alumni and a USI dean at the 1999 Senior Reception and Dinner on Friday, May 7. The event will begin with a reception at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. in Carter Hall located in the University Center. Alumni honorees are Nancy Johnson, 1983; Eric Williams; 1989; and Caitlin S. Gray, 1985. Nadine Coudret, dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions will receive a faculty award.

Details about each recipient follows:

### **Special Recognition Award**

**Nancy L. Johnson**, director of Alumni and Volunteer Services, will be awarded the Special Recognition Award for her involvement in the USI Alumni Association. Johnson began her career in 1983 in the USI President's Office. She has served as part of the Development staff, coordinator of Donor Relations, assistant director of Development and Alumni Affairs, director of Alumni Affairs, and presently manages the Office of Alumni and Volunteer Services. She helped establish alumni chapters in Indianapolis, Louisville, and Dubois County, and also has guided the establishment of the alumni scholarship endowment fund. Johnson received her Bachelor of Science with honors in 1983 and was awarded USI's first Master of Arts in Liberal Studies.

### **Faculty Recognition Award**

**Nadine A. Coudret**, dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions has successfully established baccalaureate and master's degree programs in nursing and associate and baccalaureate degree programs in occupational therapy, occupational therapy assisting, and health services during her 11 years at USI. Approval is pending on baccalaureate degrees in radiologic and imaging sciences. Before coming to USI, she was an instructor at the St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing and the University of Evansville where she served as dean of Nursing from 1986-1988. She earned her nursing diploma from St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing in Evansville; B.S., M.A., and M.S.N. degrees from the University of Evansville; and an Ed.D from Indiana University. She is an advisor to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, which helps professional people develop leadership skills, and president of the Indiana Women's Political Caucus.

### **Alumni Service Award**

**Eric R. Williams** has contributed to promoting and enhancing the excellence and the reputation of the University as both a student and an alumnus. Since graduation, Williams has served as president of the USI Alumni Association; USI Alumni Council member; Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity Alumni Chapter President; and Housing Corporation chairman. He presently serves as

Trust Committee chairman. Williams is a 1989 USI management graduate and is employed as Chief Deputy for the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Department.

**Distinguished Alumni Award**

This award provides recognition to a graduate who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in a career or public service. This year's recipient, **Caitlin S. Gray**, serves as principal at Cedar Hall Elementary School in Evansville where she has successfully implemented the first Full-Service School in the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation. Thirty community agencies have teamed with Gray and her staff to provide medical, social, and recreational services to Cedar Hall students and their families. Working with CHAIN, a neighborhood association, Gray has established support for numerous after-school programs ranging from ballet and basketball to monthly Family Nights and on-site health services. The Family Resource Center at Cedar Hall offers workshops for parents and provides on-loan books, videos, cassettes, and learning games. In 1998, Gray received a \$25,000 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award, which honors 160 educators in 38 states who are true leaders in their field. She also received the 1998 Evansville Courier/University of Evansville Administrator of the Year Award and the 1997 Youth Resources of Southwestern Indiana Youth Workers Hall of Fame Award.

Gray is a 1985 elementary education graduate. She earned her master's degree in 1990 from Indiana State University.

Tickets to the reception and dinner are available through Monday, May 26, in the Office of Alumni and Volunteer Services. Cost is \$12.50. Call 812/464-1924 with any questions.