

November 29, 2000

For immediate release

### **Deliberative forum on biotechnology at USI**

A deliberative forum that will focus on issues relating to privacy and biotechnology will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5 in Mitchell Auditorium in the Health Professions Center at the University of Southern Indiana. Open to the public, the forum Biotechnology: Our Hope and Our Challenge is being sponsored by the USI Honors Program students.

Topics of the deliberative forum will relate to ethical and social concerns about genetic discrimination and individual privacy and how government can and should insure an individual's rights. Student concerns to be discussed are fear of the creation of an underclass and genetic discrimination in the workplace.

The purpose of a deliberative forum is to address complex issues in order to increase knowledge and organize potential knowledge or action. An honors student moderator will direct the discussion. A convener and recorder will help in the organization and recording of the forum findings. Breakout groups will form following the open discussion for more group deliberation.

"The forum is designed to present topics in a neutral, nonpartisan way that encourages participants to take a fresh look at their own convictions and values," said Patrick Mabarak, a USI sophomore honors student.

The December forum will be an introduction to a more in depth forum planned for the spring. The Enlow Policy Forum on Biotechnoogy will be held in New Harmony on Saturday, March 31.

Sent to: WIKY, WGBF, WKDQ, local tv assignment editors, The Message, Pat Swanson, Ella Johnson, C&P photo desk, Mt. Vernon Democrat, Shield, University Notes