



NEWS RELEASE

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

August 26, 1994

BENNETT ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT; USI BEGINS SEARCH FOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

USI President H. Ray Hoops has announced a vice presidential search will be conducted this fall to replace Dr. Donald D. Bennett, who announced his retirement as vice president for student affairs this week effective at the end of the year. Dr. Bennett also is director of Athletics and will remain in that position until June 1995.

Dr. Hoops recognized Dr. Bennett's contributions to the University. "Don wore many hats simultaneously as vice president and athletic director and gave extraordinary service to USI over nearly a 30-year period. He will be remembered for his loyalty to USI and its students, with consistent concern for the welfare of the student-athlete. His retirement leaves a major vacancy and a search for a new vice president will begin immediately."

Dr. Bennett joined USI in July 1968 as assistant for research and development, with special assignment responsibility. He has chaired or been responsible for building committee plans and studies since construction of the first building was started in 1968. From 1971 to 1974 he coordinated academic and student affairs, then became vice president for Administrative Services. His title was changed to vice president for Student Affairs with reorganization that occurred when the University of Southern Indiana was granted separate university status in July 1985.

Athletic administrators had reported to Dr. Bennett since the late 1960s and in April 1991, he was named athletic director. USI now has 11 teams competing in intercollegiate athletics. Men's baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country, men's golf, women's softball, men's and women's tennis, and women's volleyball compete in the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) and NCAA Division II. Men's soccer competes as an independent in NCAA Division I.

Last year the athletic program won the GLVC all-sports title, an award determined by a school's finish in each GLVC-sponsored sport. Dr. Bennett called the honor the "biggest accomplishment of the season" -- a season in which the men's basketball Eagles had gone all the way to No. 2 in the nation in NCAA Division II competition.

Dr. Bennett has remained active as a mathematics professor, teaching courses each year during his tenure at USI. He is a member of the Earl C. Clements Job Corp Advisory Committee and the GLVC Executive Committee, and a past member of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council, Indiana College Placement and Assessment Center (ICPAC), and the Indiana Health Advisory Committee.

Dr. Bennett and his wife Jane have three adult children. He grew up and went to school in the English, Indiana, area, then attended Indiana University, where he earned B.S., M.S., and Ed.D. degrees. He formerly was principal of the Ellettsville, Indiana, High School and was teaching at Indiana State University when recruited by Dr. David L. Rice, USI's first president, to come to USI.

- 30 -