

Connect with Southern Indiana is a University of Southern Indiana program funded by a grant from Lilly Endowment to boost Indiana's retention of intellectual capital. At the heart of the program is strengthening critical thinking and promoting active citizenship. Participants expand their opportunities for creating new *connections*: with other residents, with local and regional organizations, between communities, and between USI and the region. These connections are designed to transcend traditional boundaries of towns and counties, occupation, and demography.

Participation in *Connect with Southern Indiana* provides invaluable, tangible skills, including the opportunity to meet others from the region with similar concerns and interests, identify areas for collaborative problem-solving, meet business and civic leaders, while developing critical thinking skills.

The 2010 *Connect with Southern Indiana* session will include residents from Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh, and Warrick counties. Those selected participate in a total of ten full day sessions over a six month period and are required to develop a collaborative project that will be presented at the conclusion of the program in June.

2010 session topics will include: community overviews; critical thinking; personality profiles; opportunity identification; project management; public skills; presentation planning; government relations. All programs will be facilitated by USI faculty and staff and community leaders.

Program cost: Grant funding from Lilly Endowment covers program expenses, including overnight accommodations, facilitation, meals, location rental fees, and materials. Participants provide their transportation to and from sessions and volunteer time to attend sessions and work on projects. Because the program is free and openings are limited, applicants must indicate their willingness and ability to participate in all sessions and complete out-of-class project work, which may require several team meetings.

Programs will be held: January 8, January 22, February 12, March 4 & 5 (overnight required), April 9, April 30, May 21, and June 4 & June 18.

Who should apply? People who are interested in improving the quality of life in their community and their region—those who desire to develop regional leadership skills, those seeking to increase involvement, or those new to the area and are not yet active in the region. A year's residence in the region prior to January 2010 is required.

Applications are due October 9, 2009. Applicants will be notified of the decision of the selection committee by November 6, 2009. Please complete the attached application form and mail it to the address noted at the end. If you have questions about the program or the application, contact Charmaine McDowell at USI, (812) 465-1629 or camcdowell@usi.edu.

Full Name _____ **Date** _____

Preferred Name _____ **Referred By** _____

Home Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone (H) _____ **(W)** _____ **(C)** _____

Email _____

Employer _____

Work Address _____

Title and Duties _____

1. **Active participation is expected. Orientation will be held on Friday evening, November 20, 2009 with past program participants attending. There will be ten sessions starting in 2010; January 8, January 22, February 12, March 4 & 5 (overnight required), April 9, April 30, May 21, June 4 and June 18. Some out-of-class time will also be needed to meet with project teams and develop projects. If selected to participate in “Connect with Southern Indiana” can you commit to attending all of the sessions and completing project work?**

If not, please explain:

2. **Describe your current leadership involvement in community or work-related activities and why you want to participate in CSI (check one):**

_____ **actively involved in at least two projects/organizations, want to enhance networking/leadership/critical thinking skills**

_____ **moderately involved in at least one project/organization, want to improve skill levels in order to expand involvement**

_____ **not involved with community activities, need better understanding of networking/leadership/critical thinking skills in order to get involved**

8. **If you wish to tell us more about yourself, *attach a brief essay that does not exceed 250 words.***

9. **Continuing Education Unit (CEU)** certification is available upon completion of this program. College credit may be awarded, but requires an additional work product to be completed in consultation with appropriate USI faculty members. Although participation in CSI is cost-free, tuition for college credit will be charged.

I am interested in receiving:

- _____ Undergraduate (\$175.80 per credit hour)
_____ Graduate credit (\$255.10 per credit hour)
_____ CEUs

Signature _____ Date _____

Questions? Call Charmaine McDowell at (812) 465-1629 or email camcdowell@usi.edu.

Return the application by mail, fax or electronic attachment by October 9, 2009 to:

**Connect with Southern Indiana
University of Southern Indiana
Extended Services
8600 University Blvd.
Evansville, IN 47712
812-461-5442
FAX 812-465-7061
extserv@usi.edu**