

## CONNECT WITH SOUTHERN INDIANA: 2012 APPLICATION

*Connect with Southern Indiana* is a University of Southern Indiana program that originated from a Lilly Endowment grant 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 2012 *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 on June 8, 2012.

2012 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:** The University of Southern Indiana covers all 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 13, January 27, February 17,  
March 1 & 2 (overnight required), March 16, April 13, April 27, May 18, and June 8.**

**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 2012 is required.

**Applications are due Friday, October 7, 2011.** Applicants will be notified of the decision of the selection committee by Friday, November 4, 2011. 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, feel free to call 812/465-1629

## CONNECT WITH SOUTHERN INDIANA: 2011 APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
                    Last                    First                    Middle

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ How long have you lived here? \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Referred By: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Title and Duties: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Active participation is expected. There will be ten sessions, January 13, January 27, February 17, March 1 & 2 (overnight required), March 16, April 13, April 27, May 18, and June 8, 2012. 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 Connect (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
  
3. Describe your community and/or work-related responsibilities for the projects you identified above or projects that you would pursue with enhanced project skills.

4. Do you feel your leadership in these activities has been successful? If not as you would like, how can the Connect program help you improve your skills?
  
5. What special skills and/or interests will you bring to your fellow Connect classmates?
  
6. What do you want to gain from participation in Connect?
  
7. Describe an issue in your community or region that you want to explore in this project and the significance of the issue to your community or region.
  
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 (\$ 193.07 per credit hour) or \_\_\_ Graduate credit (\$ 280.21 per credit hour)  
\_\_\_ CEUs

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**If you have a question, feel free to call 812/465-1629**

**Return the application by mail, fax or electronic attachment by October 7, 2011 to:**

**Connect with Southern Indiana  
University of Southern Indiana  
Division of Outreach and Engagement  
8600 University Blvd.  
Evansville, IN 47712  
812/465-1629 FAX 812/465-7061  
outreach@usi.edu**