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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW USI PRESIDENT TO SPEAK IN NEW HARMONY ON JULY 4

Traditional Fourth of July Celebration in New Harmony will feature Dr. Bennett

NEW HARMONY, IN (June 12, 2009) – The town of New Harmony will celebrate our nation’s birth at its 194th annual Fourth of July celebration. Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett, who will become University of Southern Indiana’s third president on July 1, will give the keynote address entitled, “New Harmony, Education, and the Common Good”.

Dr. Bennett, a political science scholar, has presented conference papers on topics in political science at national and international conferences. She earned her undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral degrees from the University of Cincinnati. She taught political science at Wittenberg University, Northern Kentucky University, and was dean of the College of Arts and Science at Appalachian State University before coming to USI in 2003. She served as provost and vice president of Academic Affairs at USI before assuming the presidency. She has 25 years of teaching experience and more than 11 years in higher education administration.

In addition to Dr. Bennett’s featured speech, the town of New Harmony will commemorate the event with patriotic music and a reading of the Declaration of Independence by New Harmony resident Curt Schmitt. The festivities begin at 10 a.m. at the Atheneum/Visitors Center located at 401 N. Arthur Street. This event is free and open to the public.

The decorated golf cart parade will begin at 11 a.m. from the grounds of the Atheneum/Visitors Center and the celebratory activities will move to Maclure Park where the community picnic will take place. Music will be provided by Bob Minnette and the Dixieland Society. The picnic will feature a variety of food items for sale, including hot dogs, hamburgers, bratwurst, cobbler, and ice cream. Games for kids of all ages will be available.

Tri Kappa and the Kiwanis Club of New Harmony will jointly present an award for the “Outstanding Community Volunteer” during the July 4th festivities. This award will honor an individual in appreciation for work which has benefited others in New Harmony. In addition to the award, the Kiwanis Club of New Harmony will have a raffle with proceeds going to *Riley Children’s Hospital*.

In the tradition of New Harmony's founding Harmonists, free (root) beer will be available for all attendees. During early celebrations of the Fourth of July, members of the Harmonie Society would invite area residents into their community offering locally brewed beer to their guests.

New Harmony's Traditional Fourth of July Celebration is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of New Harmony, the Friends of the Working Men's Institute, and Historic New Harmony.

About Historic New Harmony:

Historic New Harmony is a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve New Harmony's utopian legacy by inspiring renewal and fellowship between people and communities through its programs and collections. Historic New Harmony is a unified program of the University of Southern Indiana and the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites. For more information on Historic New Harmony, please visit www.newharmony.org.

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