Connect with Southern Indiana is a leadership program sponsored by the University of Southern Indiana to boost Indiana’s retention of intellectual capital. At the heart of the program is developing creative problem solving skills 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 projects, and meet business and civic leaders while developing creative problem solving skills. All programs will be facilitated by USI faculty and staff and community leaders.

Connect with Southern Indiana contains a social entrepreneurship model in which participants seek innovative solutions to a variety of problems or needs. Participants will bridge the gap between entrepreneurial thought and practice by focusing on activities that must be carried out by a variety of businesses and organizations. The program is designed to actively immerse participants in the strategic entrepreneurial process with the objectives to reinforce and develop divergent thinking, analytical thinking and communication skills. The primary goal is the development and communication of an organizational model in an atmosphere that is based on team collaboration and coaching.

The 2015 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 five month period and are required to develop a collaborative project that will be presented at the conclusion of the program on May 8, 2015.

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 16, January 30, February 13, February 26 & 27 (overnight stay required), March 6, March 20, April 10, April 24, and May 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 2015 is required.

Applications are due Friday, November 19, 2014. Applicants will be notified of the decision of the selection committee by Wednesday, November 26, 2014. 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 812/465-7013 or email Leslie Townsend at ltownsen@usi.edu.
Connect with Southern Indiana
2015 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:_____________________________________________________________________

Respond to the following questions. Use additional paper if needed. Keep answers concise, but do not
omit important details. Type size should not be smaller than 11-point type.

1. Active participation is expected. There will be ten sessions January 16, January 30, February 13,
   February 26 & 27 (overnight stay required), March 6, March 20, April 10, April 24, and May 8. 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/creative problem-solving 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 ($221.22 per credit hour) or ___ Graduate credit ($324.84 per credit hour)
  ___ CEUs

Signature________________________________________ Date__________________

If you have a question, feel free to call at 812-465-7013
Return the application by mail, fax or electronic attachment by November 7, 2014 to:

Connect with Southern Indiana
University of Southern Indiana
Division of Outreach and Engagement
8600 University Blvd.
Evansville, IN 47712
812-465-7013  FAX 812/465-7061
ltownsen@usi.edu