As the University of Southern Indiana celebrates its 50th anniversary, Dr. Robert L. Reid, provost emeritus, reflected on early moments that laid the foundation for this thriving University and how USI has helped shape southwest Indiana.

"I first came to USI in 1975 as the vice president for Academic Affairs because it was apparent this position was needed for a growing institution," said Dr. Reid.

"As a quality and new University, it took the collaboration of every employee on campus to make progress."

"Every experience I had before coming to USI prepared me to fulfill my position and serve the University the best I could. As a quality and new University, it took the collaboration of every employee on campus to make progress. Those first years here we worked with everyone, including state and local officials, and communication and optimism for what we were creating was a shared ambition."

Dr. Reid served USI for 29 years and attributes his biggest contribution to be the quality faculty hired while he served as provost. He attempted to sit in on every faculty interview and felt it was important to make sure USI gained the reputation for faculty who would care about the student experience.

"As the University of Southern Indiana celebrates its 50th anniversary, Dr. Robert L. Reid, provost emeritus, reflected on early moments that laid the foundation for this thriving University and how USI has helped shape southwest Indiana."
“Overall, what I remember most about my time at USI, besides the dramatic physical growth of the campus and increase in student population, is the growth of programs. When I first began, we offered associate's degrees and a limited number of baccalaureate degrees, programs like history, English and math. We just kept developing undergraduate curriculum to meet the needs of the area and started to fill the need of providing graduate education for southwest Indiana.”

“It would be hard to imagine what the area would look like without this University and that’s why I give.”

After retirement in 2004, Dr. Reid chose to stay close to USI. He is engaged in a number of organizations within the Evansville community. Dr. Reid and his wife, Paulette M. Roeske Reid, made a planned gift to USI, which he believes will benefit not only the University, but also the community he loves.

“You get to know your community and feel strongly about the opportunities it offers. We have so many great things in Evansville, and USI has been a part of many of them. I always try to encourage my colleagues to give back to the place where they make their career and life. It would be hard to imagine what the area would look like without this University and that’s why I give.”

Wills and other estate plans
A gift in your will or other estate plan to the USI Foundation can result in significant tax savings to your estate and will benefit students pursuing higher education.

Your annual gifts can continue forever
USI depends on loyal friends and alumni who make annual gifts which help underwrite scholarships and enhance its educational programs. When a benefactor dies, then that support ends.

Continue your commitment to support higher education by including the USI Foundation in your will. You can create a permanent legacy. Here is how to accomplish that:

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*Assumes an average annual rate of return of 4.5% on bequests received by the USI Foundation.

Concerned about the level of your Social Security income? Would you like to have more income and help USI at the same time? Call the USI Foundation and ask how you can do both with a charitable gift annuity.

For more information or other gift-planning ideas, contact the USI Foundation.

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usi.foundation@usi.edu