

Biographical Sketch

Dr. Katherine A. Draughon

Dr. Katherine Draughon is the executive director of the Office of Planning, Research, and Assessment (ORPA) at the University of Southern Indiana (USI), where she also holds a faculty appointment as Associate Professor of Sociology. Dr. Draughon led a 'ground up' revision and redevelopment of the IR office and its mission and best practices resulting in increased data security, reporting efficiency and data credibility. She has established the office as the primary campus resource for assistance in the areas of survey research and research methodology. In addition, she has expanded OPRA services beyond the traditional realm to become a source for revenue and community development by offering survey research services to community organizations, local governmental entities and businesses. Dr. Draughon is constantly seeking new opportunities and avenues for USI to connect and serve the regional community. Currently, Dr. Draughon is also leading USI's first ever strategic planning process (www.usi.edu/strategicplan).

Dr. Draughon is an expert in quantitative survey research methods and a professionally trained focus group facilitator. She has been involved in a wide variety of research efforts, many of which focus on public health issues as well as community needs assessment topics. Her passion for research methods and survey research drives her efforts to mentor her own staff and others in these areas as well as to use her skills to advance the University mission of supporting education, social and economic growth, and civic and cultural awareness in southwestern Indiana.

She received her Ph.D. in Sociology and a Masters of Public Health in Epidemiology from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). At UIC, she began her career in survey research as a project coordinator at the UIC Survey Research Laboratory. She continued her career in survey research as the assistant director of the University of South Carolina Survey Research Lab between 1999 and 2002. In 2003, she moved to Evansville, Indiana with her husband Graham, and there founded Draughon Research, LLC, as comprehensive research consulting group, which was active until taking the position at USI in 2006.