Connect with Southern Indiana
2020 Application

*Connect with Southern Indiana* is a leadership program sponsored by the University of Southern Indiana focused on promoting active citizenship and developing creative problem solving skills for individuals in the non-profit and for-profit sectors across a nine-county region in Southwest Indiana. The program highlights divergent and analytical thinking, idea generation, communication skills, and strategic entrepreneurship from a community development perspective.

*Connect with Southern Indiana* contains a social entrepreneurship model in which participants seek innovative solutions to a variety of problems or needs. Utilizing coaching and team collaboration, participants will develop projects that address regional issues. The program will introduce topics such as sustainability, adapted business models, and feasibility analyses. Participants will apply these lessons to their projects. Sessions are facilitated by USI faculty and community leaders.

The 2020 *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 including one overnight retreat over a four month period and are required to develop a collaborative project that will be presented at the conclusion of the program on May 1, 2020. Attendance at all 10 sessions is mandatory and applicants must indicate their willingness and ability to participate actively in all sessions, including tours, and complete out-of-class project work, which may require additional team meetings.

Networking and learning about the region are essential elements of the *Connect with Southern Indiana* program. Sessions are held in each of the nine counties allowing participants to hear from community leaders. Tours of local businesses or cultural attractions are included at each session to introduce participants to the things that make southern Indiana special. Tours are a vital component of the program and are not considered an optional part of the day.

**Program cost:** Participants or their employers are asked to cover half the cost ($500) of the $1000 program fee. The University of Southern Indiana covers the remaining $500. This program fee covers facilitation, meals, location rental fees, overnight accommodations, and all program materials. A limited number of full and partial scholarships are available for non-profit employees. USI employees are eligible to apply for an internal fee waiver. Participants provide their transportation to and from sessions and volunteer time to attend sessions and work on projects.

**Programs will be held:**

| January 17 | March 20 |
| January 31 | April 3  |
| February 14 | April 24 |
| February 27-28 (includes overnight stay) | May 1   |
| March 6     |         |
Who should apply? People who are interested in improving the quality of life in their community and their region, who desire to develop regional leadership skills, who seek to increase involvement, who strive to learn new ways of solving problems, or those new to the area and are not yet active in the region.

Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, November 8, 2019. Applicants will be notified of the decision of the selection committee by November 29, 2019. Applicants who applied for a full or partial scholarship will also be notified at that time. Invoices will be sent the week of December 2 and payment is due by January 10, 2020.

Please complete the attached application form and mail it to the address noted at the end. Feel free to call 812-465-7014 or email Leslie Townsend at ltownsen@usi.edu if you have questions about the program, application, or scholarship.
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. 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

2. Describe your community and/or work-related responsibilities for the projects you identified above or projects that you would pursue with enhanced project skills.

3. 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?

4. What special skills and/or interests will you bring to your fellow Connect classmates?
5. What do you want to gain from participation in Connect?

6. Describe an issue in your community or region that is important to you.

7. If you wish to tell us more about yourself, attach a brief essay that does not exceed 250 words.

8. Active participation is required. There will be ten sessions January 17, January 31, February 14, February 27 & 28 (overnight stay required), March 6, March 20, April 3, April 24, and May 1. Some out-of-class time will also be needed to meet with project teams and develop projects.
   a. I have reviewed the class schedule and made appropriate arrangements to ensure my participation barring emergencies. _____ YES _____ NO
   b. I affirm that attendance is vital to successful completion of this program and to fulfilling my obligations to fellow participants and team members. _____ YES _____ NO

9. Will your employer cover the cost of the program? ________ YES ______ NO
   a. Please include contact information to invoice your employer.

10. Answer only if you are a USI employee. Are you seeking an internal fee waiver? _____ Yes _____ No
    (Fee waivers will be processed through Outreach & Engagement.)

11. 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. Tuition for college credit will be charged in addition to the $500 course fee. You must be enrolled in USI’s Master of Public Administration program to receive graduate credit.

    I am interested in receiving:
    ___Undergraduate (IN resident = $264.19 per credit hour)
    ___Graduate credit (IN resident = $392.76 per credit hour)
    ___CEUs

    Signature________________________________________ Date________________

Return the application by mail, fax or electronic attachment by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, November 8, 2019 to:

Connect with Southern Indiana
University of Southern Indiana
Outreach and Engagement
8600 University Blvd.
Evansville, IN 47712
812-465-7014 FAX 812-465-7061 Email: ltownsen@usi.edu
Connect with Southern Indiana
2020 Scholarship Application
(Please complete if seeking assistance with program fees)

Name: ___________________________________________ Date: ____________________________

Last  First  Middle

Place of Employment: ________________________________

Do you work for a nonprofit entity or governmental equivalent? _____ Yes _____ No

Are you seeking?

_______ Full Scholarship ($500)

_______ Partial Scholarship (list the amount you are seeking ________________)

Please demonstrate why you are not able to pay the full fee.