GREETINGS FROM OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT!

2015 was a particularly good year for USI’s Outreach and Engagement. Hopefully you had a chance to read our annual report from November 2015 which highlighted many of our successes, including a record 19,970 non-credit enrollments, a record number of graduates in our Bachelor of Professional Studies program and continued success in areas such as our College Achievement Program, the Southern Indiana Japanese School, the Technology Commercialization Academy and Distance Learning, just to name a few.

2015 also marks a major transition within Outreach and Engagement as Linda Cleek, our beloved executive director of Lifelong Learning, retires after 41 exemplary years of service to USI. While we will miss Linda’s many efforts and great leadership (not to mention her great sense of humor and stories about her cats), we are excited to welcome Dawn Stoneking to the role of director of Lifelong Learning beginning on January 5, 2016. Dawn brings a strong background in both continuing and online education, as well as enrollment management and marketing from Virginia Tech to her new role. Dawn’s responsibilities will include reviewing our current portfolio of non-credit programs and leading new and enhanced revenue-generating programming. 2016 promises to be an exciting year for Outreach and Engagement. As USI rolls out its new strategic plan, Outreach and Engagement will embark on its own strategic plan to align with the University’s priorities. We will strive to expand our offerings in key strategic areas as well as enhance our focus on programming that champions diversity and excellence in learning.

I hope you enjoy this issue of engage and as always, please let us know if we can assist you.

All the best,

Dr. Mark C. Bernhard
Associate Provost for Outreach and Engagement
lifelong learning

SIX THINGS participants need to know when taking a USI Lifelong Learning course:

- **NO FORMAL ADMISSION REQUIRED**
  USI Lifelong Learning doesn’t require an application for admission to the University.

- **CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS**
  While all courses are noncredit-earning, many are available for Continuing Education Units (CEUs), an internationally recognized standard awarding one CEU for every 10 hours of class time.

- **USI ALUMNI DISCOUNT**
  Graduates of USI receive a 10 percent discount when they register for most noncredit courses at USI!

- **PARKING**
  For courses held on campus or downtown at Innovation Pointe, free parking is available for students.

- **NETWORKING & INTERACTION**
  USI Lifelong Learning is a great place to network and meet others. Students will be in courses with others of similar interests.

- **WHAT TO BRING TO CLASS**
  Most courses will provide materials needed, unless specified otherwise at the time of registration.

USI’s 14th ANNUAL NORWEGIAN FOOTMARCH

attracts participants from 35+ states

Over 600 cadets and soldiers, representing more than 35 states, the District of Columbia and the country of Afghanistan, registered to participate in USI’s 14th annual Norwegian Foot March on November 7, 2015. The Foot March is held each year as a fundraiser for USI’s Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) program.

ROTC cadets from institutions such as Kansas State University, Purdue University, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, West Point Academy and more made their way through 18.6 miles of terrain.

Participants were required to carry 25 pounds during the three-and-a-half hours of marching. As they crossed the finish line, exhausted cadets, soldiers and civilians donated nonperishable food items to a collection, which was donated to local veterans’ shelters.

>5,000 pounds of food items were collected and donated to local veteran’s shelters

Visit USI.edu/engage for a video recap of the day.

USI Dental Hygiene Clinic releases dates for FREE dental cleanings for veterans

The University of Southern Indiana Dental Hygiene Clinic will provide free dental cleaning, fluoride and X-rays for military veterans on February 29 and March 2.

The dental hygiene program collaborates with Southwest Indiana Area Health Education Center (SWI-AHEC) and USI’s Veteran, Military and Family Resource Center to offer these special clinic hours for veterans. USI dental hygiene faculty will supervise students working in the clinic.

Appointments are required and can be made by calling 812-464-1706.

SOUTHERN INDIANA JAPANESE SCHOOL CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE.

USI’s Southern Indiana Japanese School (SIJS) has received the School Award in Writing from the Japan Overseas Educational Services for the 10th consecutive year.

“I am delighted to report that SIJS received the School Award,” said Keietsu Nishimura, principal of SIJS. “This is owing to the support of the University of Southern Indiana, the school board of the Southern Indiana Japanese School and parents of the students. I also appreciate all of the effort from students and teachers.”

IN 2014-2015, SIJS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrolled</th>
<th>Employed</th>
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<td>51 students</td>
<td>11 teachers</td>
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Read more on SIJS’s decade of excellence at USI.edu/engage.
As program manager for the Bachelor of Professional Studies (BPS) degree, Shafer works with students much different from the average 18–22 year old. Her students could be working adults, active-duty service members or nontraditional students with prior course credit: students who need a personalized bachelor’s degree, free from barriers of time and location.

Removing roadblocks to graduation also has been identified in USI’s strategic plan, increasing online accessibility in hopes to have an effect on student retention. As a result, 43 new online courses were added in the past year. A total of 251 courses can be taken completely online.

Learning isn’t always tied to sitting in the classroom and listening to someone talk. In our fragmented world, we see preference differentiation all around us and it is even more evident in the education setting. There are countless environments in which students learn best and while there may be many variables that contribute to this differentiation, the constant among them is the need for quality learning.

USI Distance Learning allows student location to become the variable, as students enrolled in one class can be living, working and studying anywhere; but quality learning remains the constant. Laura Suero Cole, Distance Learning consultant, works with USI faculty to modify courses that may have been previously taught in-person, online or not at all, and prepares them for the transition to an online setting with quality course content.

“We’re trying to bring more quality online courses to the University and students,” said Suero Cole. “A focus for the University is retention and we believe that an online education would be a good way to keep students, because it gives them more flexibility.”

With an emphasis on flexibility, the modification of Shafer’s Personal and Professional Development course will continue the mission to bring all BPS courses online. Eventually, adult learners will be able to complete their BPS degree from an accredited, affordable and even more accessible program.

12 WEEKS IN THE ONLINE COURSE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

USI Distance Learning offers a 12-week Online Course Development Program (OCDP) three times a year in response to the recent growing demand in online teaching support and training. Eligible faculty can receive up to a $3,000 stipend after the course is fully developed and fulfills the program requirements.

Week 1
Develop the curriculum blueprint and learning objectives

Week 2
Course mapping and module level objectives

Week 3
Virtual learning environment and design Blackboard site structure

Week 4
First draft of the syllabus
Quality Matters

In early fall 2015, Shafer began collaboration with Laura Suero Cole and USI Distance Learning, allowing her to develop and edit her online course through the Online Course Development Program (OCDP). OCDP is a 12-week program that provides resources and support to faculty who are creating or modifying online courses.

Shafer entered the OCDP and viewed her course as if she were a student. She utilized resources from Blackboard, the course management system, and viewed the course learning objectives from the student’s perspective. She then went to work on modifying her course content to create the most effective student experience.

Where do you begin modifying a course that has been taught for 10+ years? The end.

Shafer found that OCDP allowed her, as a teacher, to focus on what students should know and be able to do at the end of her course. She defined the course learning objectives and then worked backwards to create a syllabus, course content and grading standards that would enable students to meet the end learning objectives. In real-time, students are set up to meet those learning objectives through their course activities and finish the course with tangible skills.

However, this method led to cutting long-standing learning tools. “It allowed me to eliminate some things that didn’t really focus on the learning objectives I had identified,” Shafer said. “The idea that everything that’s done in the class maps back to the learning objectives, that is something that can apply to a face-to-face class too.”

Cole aided Shafer as her consultant during OCDP. She found that focusing on the learning objectives set students up for success. “It is important for faculty members to have time to reflect on what they want students to accomplish by the end of the course. If faculty members don’t know what they want to accomplish with their students, then they won’t be assessing what they want students to achieve,” said Cole. “A course needs a direction and goal. If we have clear goals, we’ll be able to easily determine the objectives of the course, the course components that will help students meet these objectives, and the assessments that will tell us if the students actually met the objectives. We call that alignment.”

At the end of the OCDP cycle, Shafer’s course was reviewed using a set of evaluation tools. This review process involved Cole and two other individuals who combed through every aspect of the course to ensure it provided clear expectations, plenty of teacher-student engagement, and up-to-date tools for distance learning.

In the spring 2016, when the modified course goes live, students will see the benefit from course alignment. “Students will be able to declare that they have met their goals by the end of the semester,” said Shafer. Enabling students to complete a course with clear skills has been a driving factor for Shafer.

However, not only will aligning coursework with learning objectives allow students to come away with tangible skills from the course, it will ultimately align students with a degree—a degree they received from an accredited, affordable and accessible program with fewer roadblocks along the way.

“OCDP gives USI a competitive advantage. It assesses a course that has been taught for a while and allows us to modify that course right off the bat.”

—Laura Suero Cole
AN ALL-FEMALE MARIACHI BAND HEADLINED IN NEW HARMONY AT #GCFEST

On Saturday, November 7, 2015, utopia took on a Latin feel. The town of New Harmony, Indiana, was filled with Latin culture for the second annual Global Crossroads Culture and Music Festival. Everything from mural painting and children’s activities to food and salsa workshops made this day one to remember.

Mariachi Flor de Toloache, the first and only all-female mariachi band, arrived in southern Indiana on November 2 to visit area schools. The group gave concerts, held meet-and-greets with students and provided workshops and educational programs.

Missed the fun? We’re working on the third annual Global Crossroads Culture and Music Festival.

SAVE THE DATE: October 22, 2016

CONNECT WITH SOUTHERN INDIANA CELEBRATES 10 YEARS!

This annual leadership program, in its 10th year, has selected 18 participants from a nine-county region in southwest Indiana. Faculty from USI’s entrepreneurial initiative will facilitate sessions on divergent and analytical thinking, idea generation, communication, and strategic entrepreneurship from a community development perspective.

Participants attend 10 full-day sessions, each in a different southern Indiana county, between January and May 2016. Members of the class will develop a collaborative project focusing on community engagement, which they will present at the end of the program.

“One thing that sets the Connect program apart is its focus on the region as opposed to one county or community. Participants get a chance to not only learn about the nine counties, but to visit each one and selected attractions.”

—Leslie Townsend, Director of Community Engagement

USI Outreach and Engagement will follow Connect throughout the program. For updates, visit USI.edu/engage.

NEW HARMONY GALLERY OF CONTEMPORARY ART
2016 EXHIBITS

New Harmony Ceramics Residency
January 16–February 20

Jon Cournoyer
March 5–April 16

Nashville Infusion
April 23 – June 4

Coupled
June 11–July 22

Mark Ruschman—curator
July 30–September 11

Jeremy Efroymson—curator
September 17–October 28

Tin Man-Robot Exhibition
November 5–December 17

HUMANS OF NEW HARMONY

By Megan Glenn and Stephanie El Tawil

“I just finished up graduate school in Texas and was applying to a bunch of jobs and art residencies. I’ve been here since the beginning of September. It’s a good community. There has been a lot of welcoming. Last month, the Beach Boys were in town. They were getting a lot of attention from the older crowd.”

—Jeremiah Ibbara
*Art resident at NHGCA
I-69 PROJECT EARN USI AN EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS HONOR

In its first year competing, the University of Southern Indiana won the University Economic Development Association (UEDA) Award of Excellence in Research and Analysis for its work on the I-69 Innovation Corridor initiative.

“Achieving this high honor validates our regional approach to true capacity building through innovation, entrepreneurship and talent development,” said Michael Thissen, manager of the Innovation Corridor. “I am excited as southwest Indiana and northwest Kentucky move forward to continue to build a region prepared for the future.”

Daniela Vidal, director of Opportunity Development, and Thissen accepted the national award on behalf of USI Outreach and Engagement and Indiana University’s Indiana Business Research Center (IBRC) at the UEDA annual summit in Anchorage, Alaska, on September 29, 2015.

FOUR FACTORS NEEDED FOR REGIONAL GROWTH IN SOUTHWEST INDIANA

1. KNOW-HOW
Southwest Indiana has a strong legacy in manufacturing, healthcare, logistics, agriculture and energy. Support for our higher education institutions and trade schools will allow the region to transfer traditional know-how into a modern and trained workforce.

2. INNOVATION
We are seeing huge growth in our entrepreneurship and innovation networks, with co-working spaces popping up along the I-69 corridor, the Tech on Tap community, USI’s Technology Commercialization Academy and award-winning technology transfer programs with Crane Naval Base.

3. DIVERSITY
Diversity fuels the intersection of ideas, concepts and cultures and enhances our ability to create disruptive innovations. We can promote and welcome diversity by attracting, embracing and fostering newcomers from all walks of life, thus increasing our innovation potential.

4. COLLABORATION
It is necessary to embrace a culture of regional collaboration, something USI Outreach and Engagement is always striving to do better. The only way we can compete in the 21st century is by expanding our horizons and using our assets as a region. We live in a global economy, and remaining in isolation is no longer an option if we wish to survive and keep the next generation here!

Daniela Vidal (left center) and Michael Thissen (right center) accepting the national award at the UEDA annual summit.

Read more on I-69 Innovation Corridor's win, and its role in the opening of Section 4, at USI.edu/engage.
THANK YOU, LINDA CLEEK.

On December 23, 2015, we said goodbye to a colleague and friend. Linda Cleek retired as executive director of Lifelong Learning for Outreach and Engagement after 41 years of service to the University of Southern Indiana. Her closing quote from the USI Employee Retirement Reception was, “Be excellent to each other.”

In response, Linda, thank you for being excellent to us!