Five county residents graduate from Connect with Southern Indiana program

Nineteen individuals, including five residents from Dubois County, have graduated from University of Southern Indiana’s Connect with Southern Indiana program.

A regionally-based leadership program offered through USI’s Center for Human Resource Development, Connect with Southern Indiana is open to Indiana residents living in Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh or Warrick counties who would like to improve the quality of life in their communities. The annual program is intended to boost Indiana’s retention of intellectual capital by helping participants strengthen their skills and opportunities for involvement in community and regional projects, meet business and civic leaders and gain greater awareness of community and regional needs.

Program participants attended ten full-day sessions over a six-month period and developed a collaborative project.

Applications for next year’s class will be available later this month at www.usi.edu/extserv/outreach/connect.asp.

The 2011 class includes residents from the following counties:

Dubois County — Jan Dougan, extension educator for consumer and family sciences, Purdue University; Purdue Extension Dubois County; Melissa Eckert, sales specialist, Kimball Office; Jay Fischer, principal business analyst, MasterBrand Cabinets, Inc.; Elizabeth Gutgesell, concierge extraordinaire/owner, The Pickled Cricket, LLC; Brian Meyer, president and owner, Meyer Creative Landscapes.

Gibson County — Mark Casky, facility manager, Consolidated Grain and Barge Company, Inc.

Knox County — Jami Coffman, individual and corporate coach, Imagine Unlimited, LLC.

Pike County — Brad Burkhart, technical services supervisor, Old National Bank; Tonia Cowan, inventory control, OFS Brands.

Posey County — Jeanne McAulifer, research coordinator, University of Southern Indiana.

Vanderburgh County — Daniel Applegate, welding engineer, Babcock & Wilcox, Nuclear Equipment Division; Steven Burger, vice president of radio and Internet director, WNIN Tri-State Public Media; Matthew Hanka, assistant professor of political science and director of Master of Public Administration program, University of Southern Indiana; Rina Harris, conservation analyst, Vectren; Julie Ko, manager of business services, Chamber of Commerce of Southwest Indiana; Posey County office.