

## University of Southern Indiana receives \$2.5 million

The University of Southern Indiana has received a \$2.5 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. under its "Initiative to Recruit and Retain Intellectual Capital for Indiana Higher Education Initiatives." The University of Southern Indiana proposal targeted initiatives for recruiting and retaining high-achieving students, support for faculty development, and a new strategy to support the intellectual capital of both high school and college students in southwestern Indiana.

Included in the initiatives for recruiting and retaining high-achieving students are a National Merit Scholarship Endowment, Program Enhancements for the University Honors Program, and Graduate Student Research and Travel Support. The faculty development programs include Enhanced Sabbatical Leaves of Absence, Recognizing and Rewarding Faculty Excellence, Summer Research Stipends for Junior Faculty, Department Chair and Faculty Development Programs, and a new position for Director for Faculty Development. In an effort to support regional intellectual capital, the University will create a Regional Leadership Development Program with funding from the grant.

USI President H. Ray Hoops says that collectively, these initiatives will further the transformation of the existing academic culture of the University of Southern Indiana and contribute to the successful recruitment, retention, and development of superior intellectual capital. "We appreciate the generous support of the Lilly Endowment to be able to place these strategies in motion. Many of these programs have been proposed at the University for some time, but have not been implemented for lack of funding. The Endowment continues to assist the state's universities in meeting critical needs," he said.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Linda L.M. Bennett says the USI proposal funded by the Endowment will enable the University to recruit and retain excellent faculty and students and contribute to the well being of the region and the state.

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