

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA
COMMENCEMENT



December 13, 2025

LIBERTY ARENA
HOME OF THE SCREAMING EAGLES



2025

— FALL —

COMMENCEMENT

ORDER OF THE 2025 FALL COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Kinney College of Nursing and Health Professions and Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education and School of Graduate Studies Ceremony

Saturday, December 13, 2025
10 a.m.

Processional

Pomp and Circumstance, Edward Elgar, Composer

Recording by London Philharmonic, Daniel Barenboim, Conductor

Grand Marshal

Dr. Shelly B. Blunt, Provost; Professor of Chemistry

National Anthem

Morgan L. Stauter '27

Welcome and Introductions

Steven J. Bridges '89 M'95, President

Reflection

Emily B. James '25

Class of 2025 Recognition

Dr. Teri A. Beam, Dean of the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education; Professor of Biology

The Commencement Address

Dr. Zachary A. Pilot, Associate Professor of Psychology

Conferral of Degrees

Steven J. Bridges '89 M'95, President

Assisted by Dr. Shelly B. Blunt, Provost

Presentation of Graduates

Steven J. Bridges '89 M'95, President

Presented by Dr. Kent W. Scheller, Professor of Physics

Welcome from the USI Alumni Council

Rileigh M. Holman '13, President of the USI Alumni Council

Alma Mater

Constant, Faithful and True

Original music by Daniel R. Craig, Associate Professor of Music, Lyrics by David O'Neil,

Associate Professor of English

Recessional

Trumpet Tune & Bell Symphony, Henry Purcell, Composer

Recording by Michael Murray and the Empire Brass

Join us in the celebration on social media by including #USIGrad in your posts.

ZACHARY PILOT TO DELIVER COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS



Dr. Zachary A. Pilot

Dr. Zachary Pilot, Associate Professor of Psychology, is the 2025 recipient of the H. Lee Cooper Core Curriculum Teaching Award. He is recognized for his innovative, student-centered teaching practices that foster inclusive learning environments and promote academic success across diverse student populations.

Pilot joined the University of Southern Indiana in 2018 as an Assistant Professor of Psychology, where he has earned distinction for his work in core curriculum courses and undergraduate research mentorship. A dedicated educator, he was honored with the Liberal Arts Faculty Excellence Award in 2024 and has led multiple initiatives to enhance student engagement and retention.

Pilot teaches a broad range of courses, including Introduction to Psychology, Research Methods and Statistics I and II, History and Systems of Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, and Child and Adolescent Development. He is known for implementing empirically supported peer mentoring and student teaching models, which have resulted in hundreds of hours of supplemental instruction and professional development for students. His service-learning curriculum in child and adolescent development has generated over 6,000 hours of community service in collaboration with local schools and organizations.

He is recognized for his research on adverse childhood experiences, resilience, social cognition and mental health. Pilot has authored numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals including *Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Psychology*, *North American Journal of Psychology* and *Midwest Social Sciences Journal*. His interdisciplinary research explores the psychological impacts of the double empathy problem in autism studies. His work has been presented at national conferences and featured in TEDxUSI, where he delivered a talk titled, *Double Empathy: How a Lack of True Empathy Fails Autistic People*.

Beyond his teaching and research, Pilot plays an active role in the University community. He serves as Coordinator for the Promise Scholars program, is a member of the Faculty Senate and has contributed to initiatives such as the Liberal Arts Summer Camp, Solarpalooza and the Mental Health Collaborative for Greater Evansville. He has also led grant writing efforts and collaborative research projects focused on student well-being and community engagement.

Pilot earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown in 2012 and master's and doctorate degrees in psychology from Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

The H. Lee Cooper Core Curriculum Teaching Award was established in 2000 and honors USI faculty members whose work in University Core Courses (UCC) has been especially creative and successful in furthering UCC goals. As a recipient, Pilot will receive a \$4,000 stipend and a \$2,000 faculty development grant underwritten by long-time and generous University friends, Ann and H. Lee Cooper III.



ORDER OF THE 2025 FALL COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

College of Liberal Arts and Romain College of Business and School of Graduate Studies Ceremony

Saturday, December 13, 2025

1 p.m.

Processional

Pomp and Circumstance, Edward Elgar, Composer

Recording by London Philharmonic, Daniel Barenboim, *Conductor*

Grand Marshal

Dr. Shelly B. Blunt, *Provost; Professor of Chemistry*

National Anthem

Timothy R. Rosignol '25

Welcome and Introductions

Steven J. Bridges '89 M'95, *President*

Reflection

Timothy R. Rosignol '25

Class of 2025 Recognition

Dr. Del D. Dougherty, *Dean of the College of Liberal Arts; Professor of English*

The Commencement Address

Dr. Abbas Foroughi, *Professor of Computer Information Systems*

Conferral of Degrees

Steven J. Bridges '89 M'95, *President*

Assisted by Dr. Shelly B. Blunt, *Provost*

Presentation of Graduates

Steven J. Bridges '89 M'95, *President*

Presented by Dr. Nicholas D. Rhew, *Chair of Management and Information Sciences; Associate Professor of Management*

Welcome from the USI Alumni Council

Raleigh M. Holman '13, *President of the USI Alumni Council*

Alma Mater

Constant, Faithful and True

Original music by Daniel R. Craig, *Associate Professor of Music*, Lyrics by David O'Neil,
Associate Professor of English

Recessional

Trumpet Tune & Bell Symphony, Henry Purcell, Composer

Recording by Michael Murray and the Empire Brass

Join us in the celebration on social media by including #USIGrad in your posts.

ABBAS FOROUGHİ TO DELIVER COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS



Dr. Abbas Foroughi

Dr. Abbas Foroughi, Professor of Computer Information Systems, is the 2025 recipient of the USI Distinguished Professor Award. This honor recognizes his outstanding contributions to teaching, scholarship and service throughout his more than four decades at the University of Southern Indiana.

Since joining the University in 1983, Foroughi has been a cornerstone of the USI Computer Information Systems program, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses. He served as Chair of the Management and Information Systems Department from 2008-23, where he led efforts to enhance faculty development, expand curriculum offerings and support accreditation initiatives. Under his leadership, the department introduced new minors and certificates in areas such as cybersecurity, data analytics and supply chain management. He played a key role in integrating SAP—an industry-leading ERP software used by businesses to manage operations and data—into the curriculum, ensuring students gained hands-on experience with tools widely used in the corporate world.

Foroughi has authored more than 60 peer-reviewed journal articles and contributed to numerous conference proceedings, and has served as a reviewer for several academic conferences and journals.

His work has appeared in respected journals such as *Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education*, *Journal of Computer Information Systems*, *International Journal of Business Information Systems* and *Journal of Information Technology Management*. His research interests span digital transformation, supply chain management, negotiation support systems and online education. In 2022, he received the Best Learning and Education Research Paper Award from the Decision Sciences Institute for his study on digital supply chain skill gaps. He has also received multiple Best Paper Awards at national and international conferences and has served as a reviewer and editorial board member for several academic journals.

Beyond his academic achievements, Foroughi is deeply committed to community engagement. He has been a member of the Rotary Club of Evansville since 1999, serving on its Board of Directors, chairing the Rotary Education Committee, earning the Rotarian of the Year and of the Decade Awards, as well as being named a Paul Harris Fellow. His involvement with local organizations and businesses has helped bridge the gap between academia and industry, providing students with valuable experiential learning opportunities and fostering regional economic development. He has also received multiple awards in research and service from the Romain College of Business, including the Sydney L. and Sadelle Berger Faculty Community Service Award.

Throughout his tenure at USI, Foroughi has exemplified the University's mission through his dedication to academic excellence, innovation and service. His legacy is reflected in the generations of students he has inspired, the programs he has helped build, and the partnerships he has cultivated across campus and the broader community.

Foroughi earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics, a Master of Business Administration degree in quantitative business analysis and a doctorate in management information systems, all from Indiana University. His interdisciplinary background and commitment to lifelong learning have made him a respected mentor and educator.

The Distinguished Professor Award was established in 1983 and is USI's highest award given in recognition of significant achievement in teaching, scholarship and service. As a recipient, Foroughi will receive a \$7,000 stipend plus a \$3,000 faculty development grant underwritten by generous donors to the USI Foundation.



KINNEY COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND POTT COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES CEREMONY

Saturday, December 13, 2025
10 a.m.

DOCTORAL DEGREES

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Jeffrey Alan Dierlam, Evansville
Educational Leadership
Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Timothy Mattison

Taylor Nicholle Dove, Portage
Educational Leadership
Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Timothy Mattison

Dustin Hitt, Carlisle
Educational Leadership
Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Moriah Smothers

Heidi Tasa, Princeton
Educational Leadership
Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Elizabeth Wilkins

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

Benita Randolph, Saint Croix, Virgin Islands
Organizational and Systems Leadership
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Anne White & Dr.
Bailey Rankin

POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE

Allen Dean Woodruff III, Evansville

MASTER'S DEGREES

MASTER OF HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Jean Harris, Evansville

Molly Louise Johnson, Evansville

Gurleen Kaur, Fishers

Kendra Nicole Logsdon, Chandler

Kimberly Ann Moeller, Huntinburg

Stella Chika Opara, Bloomington

Melissa Ann Parkhurst, Indianapolis

James Taylor-Caudill, New Harmony

Lura Elizabeth Thach, Springfield, Missouri

Cavan Williams, Westfield

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Alexa Rae Amos, Princeton

Morgan Jade Cahall, Madison

Brooklyn G. Cater, Evansville

James Logan Cockerham, Salem

Tara Ann DeGross, Warsaw

Justin Michael Denton, Chesterton

Margaret Duggan, Defiance, Missouri

KaliAnna Farris, Carthage

Samantha Jones, Evansville

Abbey Klipsch, Evansville

Julianne Denise Lovan, Evansville

Lori L. Madison, Evansville

Ashley Molina, Carmel

Jean Mathew, Yonkers, New York

Taylor Rhea Pruitt, Belleville, Illinois

Otejri Simone Rascoe, Newburgh

LaWan Treymon Rollins, Evansville

Aubrey Lynn Ruxer, St. Meinrad

Jacob Scheller, Evansville

Michael David Snidle, Albion, Illinois

Leylah Mae Wininger, Vincennes

Sarah Beth Ziko, Fort Wayne

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Kaitlyn Cross, Westfield

Amber Harris, Carmichael, California

Hannah Elizabeth Miera, San Diego, California

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPORT MANAGEMENT

Dakota Beaver, Greenfield

Brittany Michelle Goebel, Princeton

Jordan Hanni, Rexburg, Idaho

Madyson Kennedy Sioux Lowe, Evansville

POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE

POTT COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND EDUCATION

Maxwell Edward Ziller, Evansville
Teaching

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

KINNEY COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Walker Banks III, Indianapolis
Health Services

Taylor Renee Bettis, Olney, Illinois
Health Administration

Emily A. Bogdanski, Cleveland, Ohio
Respiratory Therapy

Sophie Carnahan, Winslow
Health Administration

Austin Robert Clymer, West Terre Haute
Radiologic and Imaging Sciences

Kendall Crabtree, Providence, Kentucky
Radiologic and Imaging Sciences

Lauren Kay Crumrin, Robinson, Illinois
Health Services

Joseph Hayden Wright Kidwell, Hermitage,
Arkansas
Respiratory Therapy

Jessica Lunceford, Evansville
Health Services

Staci Lee Reiser, Highland
Respiratory Therapy

Aldren Sarmiento, Henderson, Nevada
Respiratory Therapy

Cora Schmitt, Wadesville
Health Services, *cum laude*

Brandon Micheal Slisher, Bridgeport, Illinois
Food and Nutrition, *cum laude*

Jessica Bonett Summerville, Clinton
Respiratory Therapy

Kacie Thieme, Fort Wayne
Respiratory Therapy

Corinna Warrick, Clinton
Health Services

Todd Waugaman, Evansville
Health Administration

Albany Aliya Whann, Petersburg
Health Services, *magna cum laude*

Lilly R. Williams, Boonville
Health Services

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH INFORMATICS AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Evan Andrew May, Ferdinand
cum laude

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Aidan Scott Ashley, Evansville

Sheridan Kaye Baird, Morganfield, Kentucky
magna cum laude

Hannah Christine Barnett, Richland
cum laude

Corey Andrew Durham, Corona, California

Samantha Hoy Haas, Evansville
cum laude

Logan Hamilton, Lawrenceville, Illinois

Heather Marie Hawkinson, Saint Louis, Missouri

Wren Heidorn, Robinson, Illinois
magna cum laude

Taryn Nicole Houchins, Fort Branch
cum laude

Emma Hubert, Branchville

Jacey Beth Husk, Lewisport, Kentucky

Carolyn Kircher, Beaver Dam, Kentucky

Addyson Renee Lingafelter, Chandler
magna cum laude

Haley Marie Lowe, Wadesville
magna cum laude

Jessica Marie Lucas, Terre Haute

Jaydian Mckenzie Mahan, Boonville

Alexandra Layne Maurer, Evansville

Andrea Kristine Messamore, Hanson, Kentucky

Baylee Lynn Miller, Bainbridge

Abigail Kathleen Millhorn, Carmi, Illinois

Darian Montgomery, Beavercreek, Ohio

Brittany Renee Moore, Bedford

Nicholas Logan Murphy, Boonville
magna cum laude

Peyton Olivia Murphy, Bargserville
summa cum laude

Meredith Kate Priar, Haubstadt

Samuel A. Springer, Henderson, Kentucky

Lilian June Stahl, Jasonville
magna cum laude

Andrea Rose Smith, Heltonville
summa cum laude

Jason Andrew Volk, Terre Haute

Aubrey Marie Ward, Evansville
cum laude

Carrie Whitefeather, Santa Claus

Courtney Paige Williams, Newburgh

POTT COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Alexandria Rose Terry, Evansville
Early Childhood Education,
magna cum laude

Victoria Anne Terry, Evansville
Early Childhood Education,
magna cum laude

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Abraham Abu-Hussein, Evansville
Biology

Tabbitha Louise Ault, Evansville
Elementary Education, *cum laude*

Elizabeth Dawn Axsom, Vincennes
Biology, *cum laude*

Noah Barger, Fairfield, Illinois
Exercise Science

Christian Daniel Bender, Boonville
Exercise Science, *magna cum laude*

Jasmine Kaniah Bennett, Evansville
Exercise Science, *cum laude*

Lily Blake, Evansville
Elementary Education

Elouise Clarissa Bromm, Wadesville
Exercise Science, *cum laude*

Keith Liam Brooks, English
Exercise Science

Elliott Cole Buechlein, Lamar
Exercise Science and Kinesiology

Bret Nicholas Bullington, Wadesville
Exercise Science, *magna cum laude*

Dayton Burnett, Evansville
Exercise Science

Seth Aaron Carlisle, Evansville
Biochemistry

Morgan Lyn Carr, Newburgh
Biology

Cooper William Craig, Evansville
Sport Management

Mallory Nichole Evans, Vincennes
Elementary Education

Madison Elizabeth Finney, Evansville
Elementary Education

Lillian Jean Frazer, Avon
Exercise Science, *magna cum laude*

Jackson Cooper Galey, Evansville
Manufacturing Engineering Technology

Makana Renee Goss, Noblesville
Mathematics

Austin Bruce Haggard, Corydon
Exercise Science

Thomas R. Hall, Boonville
Sport Management, *cum laude*

Asheley Brooke Henson, Sellersburg
Elementary Education

Cole Lee Hess, Cannelton
Manufacturing Engineering Technology

Emma C. Hoskins, Carmi, Illinois
Elementary Education, *magna cum laude*

Daxton Keith Huff, Tell City
Biochemistry

Brody Matthew Hunter, Vincennes
Exercise Science

Jacob Gene Johnson, Santa Claus
Exercise Science, *magna cum laude*

Dylan Joseph Kandal, Evansville
Biology

Anna Elizabeth Kegeris, Avon
Exercise Science

Brianna Lee Kellams, Evansville
Biology
UNIVERSITY HONORS SCHOLAR

Elizabeth Grace Kerney, Newburgh
Exercise Science

Samantha Leeann Kihega, Greenfield
Elementary Education

Julia Ann Kingery, Mount Vernon
Special Education, *magna cum laude*

Cody Edward Krogman, Newburgh
Exercise Science

Anna Landes, Frankton
Elementary Education and Special Education,
cum laude

Sydney Nicole Landrum, Lanesville
Elementary Education, *summa cum laude*

Colin P. Lee, Lakeland, Tennessee
Sport Management, *cum laude*

Claven John Lueke, McLeansboro, Illinois
Manufacturing Engineering Technology

Ryan Daniel Luitjohan, Edwardsville, Illinois
Sport Management

Ian Madden, Evansville
Biology, *cum laude*

Amelia Ruth Madison, Evansville
Elementary Education, *magna cum laude*

Maryam Haitham Ibrahim Mahmoud, Newburgh
Biology

Ryan Levi Maxwell, Newburgh
Mathematics

Emma Nicole Mayo, Indianapolis
Exercise Science

Elyse Anne Mays, Henderson, Kentucky
Elementary Education

Lauren Kristine McKay, Madison
Elementary Education

Matthew David Miller, Indianapolis
Kinesiology

Jacob Henry Mills, Westfield
Manufacturing Engineering Technology

Destiny Nichole Morgan, Mount Vernon
Exercise Science, *summa cum laude*

Edwin Orteiz, Newburgh
Exercise Science

Kennedy Bethe-Brooks Page, Evansville
Elementary Education

Nathan Hunter Ricketts, Wadesville
Manufacturing Engineering Technology

Emily Anne Rusaw, Indianapolis
Sport Management

Brynn Victoria Schwartz, Jasper
Exercise Science

Lexi Rose Smith, Fishers
Special Education

Mallory Elizabeth Smith, Boonville
Elementary Education and Special Education

Seth Thomas Smith, Bristow
Manufacturing Engineering Technology

Ethan James Snipes, Evansville
Exercise Science

Kristen Marie Spindler, Fort Branch
Elementary Education, *summa cum laude*

Austin Tatem, Newburgh
Manufacturing Engineering Technology

Emma Bryann Thompson, Mount Vernon
Elementary Education and Special Education

Haley Renee Thompson, Owensboro, Kentucky
Elementary Education, *magna cum laude*

Payton Tyler, Evansville
Biology

Alexis Jane Updike, Saint Louis, Missouri
Biochemistry

LaKiesha Jo Wampler, Huntingburg
Chemistry

Katelyn Mashell Wathen, Newburgh
Elementary Education and Special Education

Grace Olevia Weidenbenner, Jasper
Elementary Education, *magna cum laude*

Sydni Fay Marie Williams, Evansville
Mathematics

Zachary Michael Williams, Jasper
Elementary Education

Abigail Nicole Wilson, Mount Vernon, Illinois
Exercise Science

Jesse Andrew Wolfe, Corydon
Kinesiology

Mary Wonzik, Mount Carmel, Illinois
Chemistry

Logan Scott Zink, Huntingburg
Sport Management

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING

Timothy Glenn Bohlen, Evansville
magna cum laude

Bailey Christine Stambaugh, Freeburg, Illinois
summa cum laude

Ella Mckenna Wolf, Jasper
summa cum laude

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Joshua Michael Blunk, Bedford

Sean Joseph Fischl, Crown Point

John Charles Harrington, Mount Carmel,
Illinois

Jace Michael Helm, Flora, Illinois
magna cum laude

Josiah S. Hollis, Evansville

Grant Allen Huey, Cynthiana

Seth C. Mann, Evansville

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING

Warren Michael Halbig, Evansville
cum laude

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Harley Mack Clark, Newburgh

Elijah James Horton, Huntingburg

Jason Ray Meeks, Robinson, Illinois

Carson Lee Naone, Charleston, South
Carolina

Braeden Alan Senninger, Jasper

Nolan James Winkler, Ferdinand

ASSOCIATE DEGREES

KINNEY COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE

James Ancona, Evansville

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Abigail Biggs, Mount Erie, Illinois

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Kylie Faith Bowlds, Hawesville, Kentucky

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Mackenzie Grace Brogan, Oakland City

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Allyson Marie Brost, Oxford

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Molly Elizabeth Evans, Evansville

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Sarah Ann Gruen, Washington

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Abigail E. Hassler, Evansville

Dental Assisting

Clayton Andrew Hauser, Evansville

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Riley Lou Ingle, Elizabeth

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Emily Brooke James, Bluford, Illinois

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Emily Grace Lynch, Charlestown

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Reeanna Claire Needy, Clarksville, Tennessee

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Brooke Elizabeth Pranger, Odon

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Kelsey Routh, Evansville

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Laine Aeryn Ruggles, Haubstadt

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Addrianna Spain, Evansville

Dental Assisting

Klaudia Elizabeth Stahl, Spencer

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Hannah Jo Thurman, Georgetown

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Dylan Suzanne Wallace, Corydon

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Peter T. Warner, Evansville

Occupational Therapy Assistant

This printed list of candidates for degrees does not include late changes.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA

Candidates for Degrees

CLASS OF 2025

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND ROMAIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES CEREMONY

Saturday, December 13, 2025

1 p.m.

MASTER'S DEGREES

MASTER OF ARTS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Alice Racine Burris, Evansville
Manoucheka Damas, Indianapolis
Seth Payton Hudson, Kansas City, Missouri
Katherine Powell, Evansville
Emma Renee Vaught, Bloomfield

MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH

Ashlee Hoos, Fremont

MASTER OF ARTS IN SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, POLICY AND CULTURE

Alexandria Keefe Brennan, Saint Louis, Missouri
Jamarro Johnson, Indianapolis

MASTER OF ARTS IN STRATEGIC AND ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION

Molly E. Cummings, Ferdinand

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Myrina Jamal Abukhalil, Memphis, Tennessee
Warda Amur Alaisari I, Evansville
Ahmed Aljalil, Westfield
Hassan Alshamrani, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Emma Alterson, O'Fallon, Missouri
Patricio Amezcuita Frias, Hemet, California
Jennifer Leanne Lopez Andrade, Henderson,
Nevada

Megan Elizabeth Armstrong, Evansville
Taylor Austin, Nicholasville, Kentucky
Rania Bara, Northridge, California
Melissa Rochelle Beague, Little River, South
Carolina
Ryan Travis Beal, Evansville
Sarah Beery, Indianapolis
James Christopher Bender, Owensboro,
Kentucky
Devon Bequette, Evansville
Evan Russell Bertram, English
Jered Louis Blanton, Evansville
Devin Griffith Bobay, Fort Wayne
Timothy Lowell Boldt, Greenwood
Michael Boylan, Westfield
Alexander Brand, Corning, New York
Christian Brock, Chicago, Illinois
Kenneth Jay Brookins Jr., San Diego, California
James William Buchanan, Lawrenceville, Illinois
Todd Stewart Burgess, Fishers
Diana Luna Burton, Brownsville, Texas
Tyree Campbell, Akron, Ohio
Bridgette J. Cassety, Amherst, New York
Arianna Nicole Chirillo, Manhattan, Illinois
Amanda Esposito Chismar, Youngstown, Ohio
Timothy Alan Cook, Jacksonville, Florida
Kylie Conway-Olivares, Indianapolis
DeAmbra Imana Crochrell, Florissant, Missouri
Samson Ademola Dare, Houston, Texas
Allison Clair Davis, Carmi, Illinois
Kelsey Lynne Davis, Bowling Green, Kentucky

Philip Ross Davis, Fishers
Emilie Deich, Sellersburg
Jacob Morgan Diamond, Chesterfield, Missouri
Carol Sue Dickhaut, Evansville
Maya Atanasova Dimitrova, Fort Mill, South
Carolina
Jan Marie Dodd, Dubois
Bret Dorfman, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Jacqueline Anne Duff, Evansville
Jimmie Easley Jr., Fort Wayne
Sasha Eugene, Palm Coast, Florida
Ryleigh Addison Evans, Beaver Dam, Kentucky
Rasanga Randeewa Fernando, Bradenton,
Florida
Gina Jasmin Flores Mora, Huntingburg
Nathan Alan Forshey, Newburgh
Riley W. Freels, Newburgh
Dana Funkhouser, Evansville
Eden Abera Gebre, Chicago, Illinois
Miranda German, Plymouth
Mitchell Gilman, Willow Springs, Illinois
Adena Rachel Goldstein, Baltimore, Maryland
Jacqueline Grennell, Plymouth, Massachusetts
James E. Grinnell, Lebanon, Illinois
Aldijana Grizic Sefo, Louisville, Kentucky
Jason Grotts, Whiting
Georgios Hadjisavva, Larnaca, Oroklini, Cyprus
Emily Danielle Hahn, Evansville
Jonathan Halter, Vincennes
Jennifer Hargrove, Evansville
Ryan J. Harris, Newburgh

Allison Judith Harville, Crown Point
 Jared A. Hatteberg, Vincennes
 Brandon Michael Hatten, Princeton
 Ashley Carol Hay, South Bend
 Audrey Marie Head, Delphi
 Stephanie Heckler, Granville, Ohio
 Shirleyka Robine Hector, Brooklyn, New York
 Paul Johnathan Hiscock, Henderson, Nevada
 Jalan Martez Hobson, Henderson, Kentucky
 Sierra Lynne Hofmann, Ellettsville
 Hagan Arik Hollinger, Mount Vernon
 Cooper Allan Huckabone, Indianapolis
 Logan Huskisson, Owensboro, Kentucky
 Walter Alejandro Inope Sandoval, Palatine, Illinois
 Erika Lynn Jeffers, Greenville, Ohio
 Mangesh Yashwant Joglekar, Morganville, New Jersey
 India S. Johnson, Indianapolis
 Jimmy Jolly, Glen Oaks, New York
 Janessa Renee Julsrud, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin
 Adejumo Oluwafunmilayo Kehinde, Lemoore, California
 Olufemi Kehinde, Miami, Florida
 Parbati Khadka, Kathmandu, Nepal
 Muneeb Hassan Khan, Secane, Pennsylvania
 Cody Knecht, Carmel
 Maren Ximena Kochert, Delphi
 Dane V. Lafata, Chesterton
 Parriah Shibree Laramore Milton, Warsaw
 Garrett Leckliter, Noblesville
 Jennifer Jeesu Lee, Fishers
 Nathanael Lehman, Southampton, Pennsylvania
 Amber Nicole Lemmon, Corydon
 Duane Edward Long, Lewisville, Texas
 Jacob Long, Chester, Illinois
 Timothy Bernard Lovette, Longmont, Colorado
 Amanda Marie Lucas, Danville
 Jason Cole Lucas, Danville
 Kaitlyn Marie Lunsford, Vincennes
 Tina Mahaney, Pendleton
 Stacey Lynn Main, Bremen
 James Henry Maloney, Newburgh
 Trey A. Martinez, Elizabethtown
 Destiny Rose Mathews, Indianapolis
 Braden Matthews, Evansville
 Brandon T. Mays, Hummelstown, Pennsylvania
 Bridgett Yvonne McBryde, Chicago, Illinois
 Alexandra Nicole McKinney, Evansville
 Andrea Lyn McLaughlin, Beech Grove
 Daniel Charles Megel, Ankeny, Iowa

Christopher Montesdeoca, North Arlington, New Jersey
 Szmdar Stori Morris, Evansville
 Matthew Moser, Jasper
 Michael Anthony Moya, Springfield, Missouri
 John Stephen N. Muchai, Pendleton
 Courtney Yoshiye Mukai-Hargis, Lincoln, California
 Caleb Regan Mulzer, Santa Claus
 Tessie Mariah Myres, Livermore, Kentucky
 Christopher Michael O'Neal, Scottsdale, Arizona
 Katie Schneider Omohundro, Evansville
 Azeez Afebu Oseni, Baltimore, Maryland
 Jason Christopher Otto, London, Ontario
 Tyler Windham Owens, Round Hill, Virginia
 Derrek Andreas Pantelli, Grovetown, Georgia
 Eden Marchman Parker, Joelton, Tennessee
 Robert Earle Parker, Las Vegas, Nevada
 Dondon Domingo Parungao, Bloomington
 Stephen D. Pavlock, Findlay, Ohio
 Nikki Marie Pearson, Lincoln City
 Nina Ysabel Peischl, Las Vegas, Nevada
 Josue Ivan Perez Fernandez, Indianapolis
 Kelsie Sue Phelps, Evansville
 Ashley Elexis Pierce, Davenport, Iowa
 Renee Podczerwinski, Crown Point
 Brent Robert Potter, Clarksville
 William Pranno, Cedar Park, Texas
 John William Prout III, Greenwood
 Tanner Elliott Pruitt, Henderson, Kentucky
 Scott A. Qualls, Evansville
 Sharla Chong Rafferty, Palmetto, Florida
 Alvin Rathinam, Laurel, Maryland
 Kathryn Joanna Rathinam, Laurel, Maryland
 Haley Reinbrecht, Owensville
 Karen Yahaira Rico Flores, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 Alexa Roach, Evansville
 Lara Paige Roberts, Hancock County, Kentucky
 Sara Elizabeth Robinson, Evansville
 Marcus Zadi Rouhani, Columbia, Maryland
 Megan A. Rowland, Greenwood
 Brett Douglas Ruckman, Troy, Illinois
 Usama Saad, Fort Wayne
 Rasool Ross Sanati, Hannover, Germany
 Christopher Santiago, New York, New York
 Jonathon Thomas Schlinder, Combined Locks, Wisconsin
 Marissa Julianna Schmidt, Saint Louis, Missouri
 Pharaoh Scott, New York, New York
 Madina Sharieff Shaik, Alpharetta, Georgia
 Tyler Shetter, Montrose, Colorado
 Richard Paul Shipin, Henderson, Nevada

Rachel Silliman, Georgetown
 Jared Michael Simon, Lisle, Illinois
 Gerald Clayton Sims, Garden City, Michigan
 Dimitri Alexander Siotas, Buffalo Grove, Illinois
 Natalie J. Sirois, Indianapolis
 Taryn Kendal Smiley, Kokomo
 Joshua W. Smith, Evansville
 Mallery South, Noblesville
 Katie Liang Southern, Greenwood
 Annalyn E. Sowder, Chandler
 Katelynn Stamm, Valley View, Ohio
 Timothy Scott Stevenson, Bay, Arkansas
 Robert Osborne Struble III, Kingston, Massachusetts
 Bryce Sullivan, Louisville, Kentucky
 Faith Marie Swindle, Mooresville
 Adam Terwilliger, Bloomington
 Chloe LeeAnne Thai, Westfield
 Vishal Jaymin Thakkar, Irving, Texas
 Alexander Paul Theisen, Commerce Township, Michigan
 Alyssa M. Thom, Poplar Grove, Illinois
 Whitney C. Thomas, Glenwood, Illinois
 James Reid Thomasma, Evansville
 Ebbert Toledo Rojo, Indianapolis
 Brian Benjamin Towell, Plainfield
 Lisa Janicek Turner, Kerrville, Texas
 Preston Wayne Turner, Evansville
 Jill Marie Uhlenkamp, Brownsburg
 Amanda Umbriano, Deland, Florida
 John Marc Vander Veer, Dyer
 Michael Walker, Evanston, Michigan
 Grace Margaret Weidner, Noble, Illinois
 Ethan Welch, Lincoln City
 Taylor Donna Elizabeth Welch, Evansville
 Erin White, Malta, New York
 Julia Dawn White, Greenville, South Carolina
 Cory Williams, Louisville, Kentucky
 Natasha Wilson, Sidney Center, New York
 Brian Jay Wingard, Elkhart
 Ashley Woods, Henderson, Kentucky
 Kevin Ydrovo, Memphis, Tennessee
 Kirsten Patricia Yeager, New Albany
 Saada Zegar, New Berlin, Wisconsin
 Moncef Zejli, Clayton, North Carolina
 Laura Zenga, Montreal, Province of Quebec
 Rachid Zouheir, Richfield, Minnesota

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

David Charles Reamer, Vincennes
 Public Sector Administration

POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE

ROMAIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Hayden Schwarzlose, Albion, Illinois
Accountancy

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Sara Anne Deal, Evansville
Communication Studies

Iain Girten, Richland
Art

Gloria Jo Ann Hinterscher, Vincennes
History, *cum laude*

Lillian Bea Ireland, Evansville
Theatre Arts and World Languages and
Cultures, *cum laude*

Isaac Eli Kebortz, Evansville
History

Lane Michael Mettle, Rockport
English Teaching

Timothy Ray Rosignol, Mount Carmel, Illinois
Sociology and World Languages and
Cultures, *summa cum laude*

Danna Eloisa Schu, Crawfordsville
Public Relations and Advertising and
Global Studies

Annyka Rae StJohn, Indianapolis
Criminal Justice, *summa cum laude*
UNIVERSITY HONORS SCHOLAR

Daniela Tenorio Onofre, Evansville
Public Relations and Advertising

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Jean Marie Raines, Sandborn
Art

BACHELOR OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Nathan Bollenbacher, Berne
Individualized Studies

Christina K. Boyd, Evansville
Individualized Studies, *cum laude*

Peyton Wyatt Bradford, Evansville
Individualized Studies

Olivia Ranee Burress, Evansville
Individualized Studies

Khi Holiday, Fulton, Mississippi
Individualized Studies

Sophia Kates, Evansville
Applied Studies

Jami Lyn Kreegar, Lapel
Individualized Studies

Jordan Joshua McConnell, Evansville
Individualized Studies

Patrick Moran, Chicago, Illinois
Individualized Studies

Tamara D. Murk, New Harmony
Individualized Studies

Elizabeth Elle Ossenbergh, Evansville
Individualized Studies

Erin Pemberton, Chandler
Individualized Studies

Kyiana Williams, Evansville
Individualized Studies, *magna cum laude*

Mar'Shai Ar'Chelle Wisdom, Evansville
Individualized Studies

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Jonah D. Addis, Lynnvile
Radio and Television, *cum laude*

Josie Pearl Baker, Marion, Illinois
Psychology, *cum laude*

Jakeb Thomas Beard, Newburgh
Radio and Television

Connor Campbell Black, Bruceville
History, *magna cum laude*

Lucy Rae Clemetine Ellis Blair, Evansville
Art

Sydney Lynette Boyd, Petersburg
Political Science

Briley R. Brinkman, Newburgh
Public Relations and Advertising

Emma Grace Bullock, Evansville
Criminal Justice

Sheila Renee Clarke, Boonville
Psychology

Madalyn Raye Cottrell, McCordsville
Theatre Arts

Stormie Devine, Henderson, Kentucky
Psychology

Michael Eugene Earley, Evansville
Political Science

Mackenzey Jay Elliott, Indianapolis
Communication Studies

Luke Anthony French, Evansville
Art

Nicholas Ashton Gates, Evansville
Psychology

Emilee Hackett, West Terre Haute
Communication Studies

Carrie Anne Hagerman, Owensboro, Kentucky
Radio and Television

Macey Jo Hahn, Evansville
Sociology, *magna cum laude*
UNIVERSITY HONORS SCHOLAR

Torrance Elizabeth Hardin, Vincennes
Psychology

Jalyn Marie Henke, Jasper
History, *magna cum laude*

Madison Rae Holmes, Newburgh
Criminal Justice, *cum laude*

Caleb Alexander Johnson, Evansville
Art

Ryan Elizabeth Jones, Evansville
Criminal Justice, *magna cum laude*
UNIVERSITY HONORS SCHOLAR

Adriana Jourdan, Evansville
Communication Studies

Sean Patrick Keegan Vogt, Evansville
Radio and Television

Allison Faye Kirsch, Evansville
Anthropology, *cum laude*

Justice Marie Kolley, Rockport
Sociology

Alexandra Maya Lorino, Chesterton
Criminal Justice
UNIVERSITY HONORS SCHOLAR

McKenna Ryann Love, West York, Illinois
History, *summa cum laude*

Nicholas Richard Mack, Equality, Illinois
Anthropology

Katelyn Marie Middleton, Fort Branch
Sociology

Karlee Marie Monday, Greenwood
Public Relations and Advertising,
magna cum laude

Liam Joseph Murray, Indianapolis
Psychology

Lexie J. Neese, Petersburg
History

Ivan Ortey, Newburgh
Psychology, *magna cum laude*

Cameron Tate Patterson, Henderson, Kentucky
Psychology

Phoebe Phuong Thuy Ranger, Coatesville
Public Relations and Advertising,
magna cum laude

Ashleigh Ream, Madison
Anthropology

Nathan Reid Ruppel, Vincennes
English, *magna cum laude*

Claudia Grace Simpson, Francisco
Psychology

Bria Marie Sisk, Carbondale, Illinois
Public Relations and Advertising,
summa cum laude

Thomas Robert Smith, Robinson, Illinois
History, *magna cum laude*
UNIVERSITY HONORS SCHOLAR

River Snodgrass, Mount Vernon
English Teaching, *magna cum laude*

Riss Avery Solis, Princeton
Radio and Television, *magna cum laude*

Emma Nicole Strubinger, Highland, Illinois
Criminal Justice

Gwendolyn Stuckey, Newburgh
Art

Ashlyn Alana Nicole Thornburgh, Newburgh
Theatre Arts

Allison Nicole Tieken, Evansville
Psychology, *cum laude*

Mailee Brooke Toennies, Bartelso, Illinois
Journalism and Radio and Television,
cum laude

Whitney Nicole Wagler, Chandler
English Teaching

Maya Faith Warner, Boonville
Psychology

Lucas Ryan Washington, Santa Claus
Philosophy, *cum laude*

Allison Nicole Weichman, Columbus
English Teaching

Shelby Rae Whittaker, Orleans
Psychology

Jeffrey Clay Williams, Evansville
Journalism

Amber Mary Woolard, Vincennes
Criminal Justice

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK

Lauren Kelsey Almeda Romero, Evansville

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE

Season J. Hagan, Cape Coral, Florida
Social Science

Kaitlyn Nichole Tincher, French Lick
Social Science

ROMAIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Isabella A. Jewell, Evansville
Accounting and Professional Services

Delaney Elizabeth Maurer, Evansville
Marketing

Mason Allen Yancey, Fort Branch
Accounting and Professional Services

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Carmen Abrego, Washington
Accounting and Professional Services,
cum laude

Katherine Gisel Alvarez-Russell, Evansville
Business Administration

Charity Paige Arnold, Evansville
Management

Cooper Allen Ashby, Evansville
Finance

Katherine Michelle Avis, Evansville
Business Administration

Hope Ann Marie Barron, Newburgh
Management and Business Administration,
magna cum laude

Brady Allen Bowman, Mount Vernon
Business Administration, *cum laude*

Emily Jean Brazzell, Bedford
Finance

Damon Brown, Lawrenceville, Illinois
Computer Information Systems

Kade Allen Brown, Elberfeld
Business Administration

Noah Bryant, Fort Branch
Finance

Devin Victor Burris, Evansville
Finance

Serena Grace Buzzard, Effingham, Illinois
Accounting and Professional Services and
Finance, *magna cum laude*

Mason Camp, Chandler
Computer Science

Alexander William Cannon, Evansville
Finance, *magna cum laude*

Kayleigh Marie Collins, Sumner, Illinois
Finance

Brooke E. Cooper, Evansville
Computer Information Systems, *cum laude*

Casey Lynn Cotton, Evansville
Business Administration, *cum laude*

Kamryn Lynn Dailey, Linton
Marketing, *cum laude*

Evan Scott Dennis, Newburgh
Management

Austin Diedrich, Evansville
Business Administration

Blake Ryan Diekmann, Chandler
Computer Science

Rylea Nicole Wilkerson, Henderson, Kentucky
Business Administration

Morgan R. Dodd, Huntingburg
Business Administration

Nathan A. Elder, Evansville
Management

Lydia S. Emmons, Evansville
Business Administration

Regan Farmer, Haubstadt
Business Administration

Joseph Michael Fields, Evansville
Marketing

Mackenzie Rae Gamage, Evansville
Management

Nolan Daniel Gehlhausen, Tell City
Accounting and Professional Services,
cum laude

Joseph Gennaro, Evansville
Business Administration

Elle May Gensic, Evansville
Marketing

Christina Jo Gentry, Newburgh
Marketing

Robert M. Gober, Boonville
Business Administration, *cum laude*

Kristen Lane Greenwood, Olney, Illinois
Business Administration

Brooke Griese, Evansville
Business Administration, *cum laude*

Grant Daniel Griese, Evansville
Business Administration

Carlie Cheyanne Halbrader, Winslow
Business Administration, *cum laude*

Ethan Gene Hall, Saint Anthony
Accounting and Professional Services and
Finance, *magna cum laude*

Emma Olivia Harris, Huntingburg
Marketing

Carmen Lee Hasenour, Haubstadt
Business Administration, *magna cum laude*

Brooke Anne Haug, Ferdinand
Accounting and Professional Services,
cum laude

Rory Heltsley, Haubstadt
Economics

Carter James Hood, Newburgh
Finance

Caleb John Hubert, Tell City
Business Administration

Chase Lawrence Hubert, Tell City Business Administration	Evan Michael Mehringer, Jasper Marketing	Brooke Schmidt, Metamora, Illinois Business Administration, <i>magna cum laude</i>
Garrett Hulfachor, Lawrenceville, Illinois Business Administration	Kyle Mogle, Newburgh Computer Science, <i>magna cum laude</i>	Robert Z. Schoenstein, Evansville Accounting and Professional Services
Whitney Jepsen, Henderson, Kentucky Business Administration	Olivia Kaye Money, Fort Branch Marketing	Hallie Lynn Scott, Sumner, Illinois Marketing, <i>cum laude</i>
Tyler Michael Joest, Evansville Computer Science	Jackson Thomas Mulherin, Evansville Business Administration	Brandon Aramis Scott-Rivers, Carbondale, Illinois Computer Science
Alayna M. Johnston, Evansville Management	JaShaun Christopher Newman, Indianapolis Business Administration	Maya Seshan, Carmel Computer Science, <i>summa cum laude</i>
Jaden Parker Jones, Shoals Computer Information Systems	Yousif Osman, Evansville Computer Science	Kaylee Jo Simmons, Evansville Business Administration
Brady Christopher Kidd, Princeton Business Administration, <i>cum laude</i>	Claire Danielle Patterson, Chandler Management	Shayna Rae Dean, Princeton Business Administration
Gloria E. Kim, Newburgh Computer Information Systems, <i>magna cum laude</i>	Olivia Grace Patton, Newburgh Accounting and Professional Services, <i>magna cum laude</i>	Landon Jason Smitha, Wadesville Finance
Rebecca Olivia Klee, Utica, Kentucky Business Administration, <i>cum laude</i>	Dana Pauli, Evansville Finance	Joe Curtis Smithson, Bedford Business Administration
Logan Koch, Newburgh Business Administration	Alex Michael Perry, Bellwood, Pennsylvania Finance and Accounting and Professional Services, <i>magna cum laude</i>	Jackson Alexander Springer, Evansville Economics
Christian Philip Kocher, Evansville Accounting and Professional Services, <i>cum laude</i>	Amber Larisa Poehlein, Evansville Business Administration	Briana R. Stevens, Wadesville Marketing
Ella Grace Kohl, Fort Branch Business Administration	Parker Lauren Provost, Westfield Business Administration, <i>cum laude</i> UNIVERSITY HONORS SCHOLAR	Lillian Nadene Taft, Hoyleton, Illinois Accounting and Professional Services and Business Administration, <i>cum laude</i>
Avery Lyn Martin, Evansville Marketing	Colin Charles Douglas Pruitt, Santa Claus Accounting and Professional Services	Seth Thomas, Lamar Marketing
Noah Alexander Edward Martin, Mount Carmel, Illinois Accounting and Professional Services	Rosa Marie Pund, Tell City Marketing, <i>cum laude</i>	Gavin Thompson, New Albany Marketing
Brock M. Martindale, McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Business Administration, <i>cum laude</i>	Alivia Nicole Reese, Huntingburg Business Administration	Landon Pierce VanBibber, Evansville Management
Jalie Rose McElfresh, Mount Pleasant Business Administration	Abigail Rose Rhoutsong, Newburgh Management, <i>cum laude</i>	Clay Patrick Wathen, Evansville Computer Information Systems
Brayden Sean McKinney, Evansville Business Administration, <i>cum laude</i>	Lillie Mae Ai Ji Robertson, Evansville Marketing, <i>cum laude</i>	Ty Patrick Weisman, Jasper Computer Information Systems
Jackson Isaiah McPherron, Huntingburg Computer Science	Austin Ruehmkorff, Evansville Management	Bryce Connor Whitehead, Rochelle, Illinois Accounting and Professional Services
Matthew David McRae, Evansville Computer Information Systems	Brian Joseph Samples, Evansville Business Administration	Daniel Wilkins, Harrogate, United Kingdom Computer Information Systems
	Gaurav Singh Sandhu, Canada Finance	Evan Scott Zapp, Greenwood Finance

This printed list of candidates for degrees does not include late changes.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA



Steven J. Bridges, a two-time alumnus of the University of Southern Indiana, was appointed the University's fifth President on April 2, 2025, after serving as the Interim President since July 2024. As the first USI graduate to hold this position, Bridges brings a deep connection and dedication to the University he has long served. He began his career at USI in 1989 and has served in multiple leadership roles, including Vice President for Finance and Administration since 2015.

One of Bridges' quotes following his appointment was, "I was the type of student for which this campus was founded 60 years ago, and I feel a great responsibility to continue the extraordinary education I received, for our students of today and tomorrow."

From its initial stages of planning in the early 1960s, community leaders have supported the University by providing a solid base for its present success and future growth. The University has continued to uphold its mission under the strong leadership of its first four presidents, David L. Rice, H. Ray Hoops, Linda L. M. Bennett, Ronald S. Rochon, and now, President Steven J. Bridges.

The University of Southern Indiana was established on September 15, 1965, in the old Centennial School Building, offering classes to 412 students. In 1967 Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc. (SIHE) raised nearly \$1 million to acquire the land where the campus now sits. The University moved to its present site four miles west of the city limits of Evansville in September 1969. The University graduated its first class of baccalaureate degree students in 1971 and achieved initial North Central Association accreditation in 1974.

USI Today

The University of Southern Indiana (USI) enrolls nearly 9,400 dual credit, undergraduate and graduate students in more than 130 areas of study. A public higher education institution located on a beautiful 1,400-acre campus, USI offers programs through the Romain College of Business, College of Liberal Arts, Kinney College of Nursing and Health Professions, Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education and the School of Graduate Studies.

The Kinney College of Nursing and Health Professions also offers classes at the Stone Family Center for Health Sciences in downtown Evansville. The University offers study-abroad opportunities in many countries and is host to international students from around the globe. Over the past 60 years, the University has invested over \$500 million in new facilities.

USI is a two-time Carnegie Foundation Community Engaged University and offers programs and services to more than 15,000 participants annually through Outreach and Engagement. Programs and services include the Center for Applied Research, College Achievement Program, Historic New Harmony, Historic Southern Indiana, New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art, Corporate Partnerships and Customized Training, Lifelong Learning Noncredit Programs, ROTC, Office of Charter Schools, Safety Training, Service Learning, Southern Indiana Japanese School and the Veteran, Military and Family Resource Center.

A competitive member of NCAA Division I and the Ohio Valley Conference, USI offers 19 varsity intercollegiate men's and women's sports.

Under the leadership of President Bridges, the University continues a tradition of affordable excellence through innovation and engagement and positions itself as a top choice for high-caliber college students across the state, nationally and internationally.

The University's vision states: *USI will be a recognized leader in higher education boldly shaping the future and transforming the lives of our students through exceptional learning and intentional innovation.*

USI is engaged in its 2021–26 strategic plan, Accelerating Impact, which includes four overarching goals: improve student success, foster impactful engagement, elevate visibility and reputation, and strengthen financial viability. These four goals, along with the core values of integrity, exceptional education, welcoming environment for all, and external engagement, are a roadmap for the University's future.

Today, more than 55,000 alumni have been awarded diplomas from the University of Southern Indiana. USI graduates are renowned surgeons, bank executives, artists, leaders in K-12 education, accounting executives, lawyers, nurses, hospital administrators, college professors, elected officials, just to name a few, and through the knowledge gained from here—USI, their alma mater—they ignite transformation in their communities.

COMMENCEMENT TRADITIONS

Presidential Medallion

During the Middle Ages, medallions signified membership in religious orders and guilds. Today, colleges and universities strike medallions to commemorate important events and achievements. Donated by the late Dr. Melvin Denner, Professor Emeritus of Biology, Anne Denner, former Instructor in Nutrition and Biology and their family, the University's first Presidential Medallion was used in the March 17, 1995, inauguration of Dr. H. Ray Hoops, the University's second President. Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett, the University's third president, also wore this medallion for her inauguration on October 15, 2009. The Presidential Medallion signifies the authority vested in the President. The medallion's obverse carries, at its center, a three-inch reproduction of the University Seal and, surrounding the seal, a half-inch rim. On the reverse appear the names and dates of appointment for the University's presidents. The President wears this medallion for all formal academic ceremonies.

For Dr. Ronald S. Rochon's inauguration on April 5, 2019, a new medallion was struck with an updated seal, and a new chain was fabricated. In addition to the names of USI's past presidents on the reverse side of the medallion, the new chain was commissioned bearing their names on four separate plates. The medallion and chain were underwritten by a generous gift from University Trustee and alumnus, Ronald D. Romain '73 and alumna Connie Dartt Romain '74. This same medallion and chain were reworked to include a plate inscribed with "President" on the chain and a fifth name added to the reverse side for the inauguration on October 16, 2025, of the University's fifth President, Steven J. Bridges.

Gonfalons

Ceremonial flags called gonfalons originated in the Middle Ages for civil and military processions, often appearing beneath the steel head of a knight's lance. In Italy, gonfalons designated individual Italian republics; the chief magistrate or other high official served as gonfalonier, carrying the banner.

At the University of Southern Indiana, gonfalons represent each major academic unit. First used in 2005 and presented to the University as a gift from the Campus Store, new gonfalons were fabricated for the 2019 inauguration of Dr. Ronald S. Rochon.

University Seal

The University Seal, originally designed by Nussmeier Engraving Company, Evansville, and updated in 2018, bears the University's colors—blue, red and white—with gray. The Seal of the University was designed to signify the importance of higher education in defending citizens against ignorance.

Between the two banners displaying the University's name appears an open book, illuminated by the torch of knowledge. Trees on either side of the flame suggest not only the University's pastoral southern Indiana setting, but also life, growth and continuity.

The open book emphasizes the importance of teaching and learning; *academia populi* and *academia populo* indicate the University of Southern Indiana is a scholarly academy founded and supported where *education by the people*, *education for the people* flourishes. Finally, the laurel branches to the right and left of the book represent victory: the light of learning overcoming the darkness of ignorance.

University Mace

In the Middle Ages, bodyguards of French and English monarchs carried ceremonial maces. Later, the mace became an important symbol of office in civil processions and academic pageantry. At the University of Southern Indiana, the grand marshal, a distinguished member of the faculty, carries the mace.

A replica of Richard Owen's walking cane serves as the staff for the University mace. A respected geologist and Professor of Natural Science at Indiana University, Owen was the first President of Purdue University. He was a son of Robert Owen, the Welsh industrialist who established New Harmony, Indiana, as a center for education and enlightened social reform in the early 1800s.

The 32-inch-tall wooden cane was presented to Richard Owen in 1874; and through the generosity of his descendant, the late Kenneth Dale Owen, that cane, lent to USI, served as the grand marshal's staff in all Commencement exercises from 1985 to 1995.

Designed and fabricated by Nicholas Logsdon of Indianapolis, the gold-plated mace bears at the top, above the cane's golden head, an open orb with a replica of the University seal. The orb's free-flowing design symbolizes interrelationships among all academic disciplines. Immediately below the cane's orb, three two-inch golden rings bear the names and appointment dates of the University presidents. The names of Kenneth Dale Owen, Jane Blaffer Owen and James A. Sanders, donors of the mace, appear on a finial near the bottom of the cane replica.

Designed and created by alumnus Kenny Fisher '77, the replica of the cane and its base are made of walnut from the Owen mansion built in New Harmony during the 1830s.

COMMENCEMENT TRADITIONS

Academic Regalia

The academic garb dates from medieval days when university students wore woolen and fur garments for warmth in damp and drafty buildings. Most of those studying were clerics in holy orders; they wore a cloak to which was attached a hood that could be pulled up to cover their tonsured heads.

Simplified today, the garb serves to remind us that its wearer is a member of an ancient and venerable profession; it also indicates, by its color and design, the wearer's degree and the institution by which the degree was conferred.

In the United States, black has been the traditional color for academic gowns, but some institutions authorize holders of their doctorates to wear colors of the institution. The bachelor's gown is distinguished by its long, open sleeves; the master's by its closed, slitted sleeves; the doctoral by its full sleeves trimmed with bands of velvet, which may be black or a color denoting the field in which the degree was taken.

The mortarboard cap, proper for all degrees, is black. Tassels, usually black, are worn over the left front quarter of the cap. Holders of the doctorate may wear tassels of gold thread.

Academic hoods vary in length according to the degree attained and are lined with the colors of the institution by which the degree was granted. Hooding signifies the induction of the graduate into the fellowship of the academy, a welcoming gesture by those who represent the high standards of scholarship and creative achievement.

Doctoral and master's degree candidates receive hoods distinctive to their degrees. The honorary doctoral hoods of the University of Southern Indiana are black, lined with blue satin with red satin chevrons. They are edged with white velvet. Retired members of the University faculty can be recognized in today's ceremony by the red, white and blue cords.

The Distinguished Professor Award is the highest recognition bestowed upon a faculty member at the University of Southern Indiana. Faculty who have received this award can be recognized in today's ceremony by the blue and red stole embroidered with the University Seal worn with their regalia.

Baccalaureate Scholarship Honors

The baccalaureate degree candidate graduating with either a 4.0 or the highest grade point average graduates *summa cum laude*. Baccalaureate students with a grade point average of 3.80 or higher graduate *magna cum laude*.

Those with grade point averages between 3.60 and 3.79 graduate *cum laude*. These achievements are set forth on the individual diplomas. Honor students can be recognized in the Commencement exercises by colored stoles and tassels. Gold indicates *summa cum laude*; red, *magna cum laude*; and blue, *cum laude*.

Because students enrolled in doctoral and master's degree programs are expected to maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0, and most achieve much higher levels, scholarship honors at Commencement are given only to baccalaureate students.

University Honors Scholars

The designation of University Honors Scholar is awarded to students who successfully complete the Honors Program. They can be recognized in the Commencement ceremony by the white honor cords worn with their regalia.

Alumni Pins

Graduates in each ceremony are receiving alumni lapel pins with the University logo as a gift from the University of Southern Indiana Alumni Council.

Photography During Ceremony

Pro Pics will take photos of each graduate during the ceremony. After Commencement, photo proofs will be sent to the graduates' USI email address and/or preferred email address, if requested. To receive photo proofs, please visit www.USIphotos.com. For further information, you may contact Pro Pics at support@propicsusa.com. Family members who wish to take still or video photographs during the ceremony may do so from their seats. Your cooperation ensures the dignity of the Commencement Ceremony.

Photographs taken by USI Photography and Multimedia will be available following the ceremonies on social media platforms. A gallery of images and prints also are available for order at usiphotos.zenfolio.com/usigrad.

NOTICE OF PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEO and AUDIOTAPING

Photography, video and audio may be recorded before, during and after each ceremony and may be used in future University of Southern Indiana news, advertising and promotional materials. By attending this event, you consent to having your likeness captured without restriction or financial compensation for possible University use and publication.



Trustees of the University

Christina M. Ryan
Chair, Newburgh

John M. Dunn
First Vice Chair, Evansville

C. Wayne Kinney '77
Second Vice Chair, Evansville

Jeffrey L. Knight
Secretary, Evansville

Christine H. Keck
Evansville

Dr. Glen J. Kissel
Evansville

Ronald D. Romain '73
Evansville

Michael J. Solliday '27
Switz City



Officers of the University

Steven J. Bridges '89 M'95
President

Dr. Shelly B. Blunt
Provost; Professor of Chemistry

Andrea R. Gentry '05
*Vice President for Development;
President, USI Foundation*

Jon Mark Hall
Vice President and Director of Athletics

Zachary A. LaGrange
Vice President for Government Affairs and General Counsel

Dr. Abeer A. Mustafa
Vice President for Student Affairs

Jeffrey M. Sickman
Vice President for Finance and Administration

Kindra L. Strupp M'22
Vice President for Marketing and Communication; Assistant Secretary



Academic Officers

Dr. Michael D. Dixon

Dean of the School of Graduate Studies; Professor of History

Dr. Del D. Doughty

Dean of the College of Liberal Arts; Professor of English

Dr. Teri A. Beam

Dean of the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education; Professor of Biology

Dr. Julie L. McCullough

Dean of the Kinney College of Nursing and Health Professions; Associate Professor of Nutrition

Dr. Sudesh N. Mujumdar

Dean of the Romain College of Business; Professor of Economics

Alumni Engagement and Volunteer USI

Maggie A. Carnahan '13 M'18

Director of Alumni Engagement and Volunteer USI

Faculty Senate Chair

Dr. T. Kyle R. Mara

Associate Professor of Biology

Constant, Faithful and True
The University of Southern Indiana Alma Mater
Lyrics: David G. O'Neil • Original Music: Daniel R. Craig



Where the North meets the South,
And the East meets the West,
Where roads cross tall fields of grain,
Where Evansville stands on the Ohio's rough sands,
May we evermore hear that refrain.

USI... USI...
Constant, faithful and true.
We'll remember our home, wherever we roam.
In our hearts, we'll be loyal to you.

On these grounds by the people,
For the people endowed,
We honor the red, blue and white
And that name we'll hold dear
To the end of our years
As we lift up our voices on high.

USI... USI...
Constant, faithful and true.
We'll remember our home, wherever we roam.
In our hearts, we'll be loyal to you.
In our hearts, we'll be loyal to you.