



February 25, 2009

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

The University of Southern Indiana is pleased to submit for consideration for Federal Funding in Fiscal Year 2010 a request for *Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Equipment* for the University's new Business and Engineering Center. The Evansville regional area is a center for advanced manufacturing. The request for Federal Funding comes at a time when Indiana and the United States are falling behind in science and technology competitiveness. The new Business and Engineering Center will provide the infrastructure needed to increase the education, talent, and innovation of University of Southern Indiana graduates and produce more highly skilled graduates to meet workforce demands. The University of Southern Indiana seeks \$1,000,000 in Federal Funding in Fiscal Year 2010 to equip the Advanced Manufacturing Laboratory for the University's engineering program.

Today over 10,000 students are pursuing their educational goals at the University and more than 15,000 adults and youth enroll in noncredit, continuing education, workforce training, and professional development programs. Throughout our history, the University has been actively engaged in addressing the State's interest in economic and workforce development. We have a consistent record of development and expansion of programs and services in response to or in anticipation of needs of the changing economy. The programs and services of the University are a valuable resource as the State strives to diversify its economy and ensure that the skills of the workforce continue to improve.

Thank you very much for the support you have provided to the University of Southern Indiana. I appreciate your understanding of the importance of higher education to our State and to our nation. We ask for your favorable support of the University's request for *Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Equipment* for Federal Funding in Fiscal Year 2010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Ray Hoops".

H. Ray Hoops
President

Enclosures