

# SIUE, community good business partners



SIUE photo

## **John Navin.**

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Segue/Logan Cameron |

This week on Segue, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Interim Chancellor Stephen Hansen, PhD, welcomes John Navin, dean of the SIUE School of Business (SOB).

Two men with strong personalities and quick wit, the scholars relentlessly exchange banter. For example, Hansen miscounts the year Navin joined the SIUE faculty by mistake. Navin quickly replies, “You were a history professor, but you’re not going to make the accounting program. I’m sorry.”

Discussing many of the features which make SIUE a great asset to the St. Louis region, they focus on the business aspects of the University, highlighting topics such as SIUE’s regional economic impact, community involvement between SIUE and the Metro East, restructuring of the University’s budget during Illinois’ financial hardships and ways that SIUE SOB graduates are building prosperous careers.

A northwest Ohio native, Navin joined SIUE in 1991 as an assistant professor of economics immediately upon completion of his PhD from Michigan State University. As his first and only job since entering academia, Navin explains, “I didn’t know much about SIUE before I got here, but the community is great, and the community on campus is even better. It truly just felt like home.

“It is an open place, people get along and care for each other. There is a shared governance and trust between the administration and faculty. It was just a good fit for what I did.

“I like community involvement, and SIUE is deeply involved. It is just a good place to be. It was a growing institution, kind of young. At that time, we were ‘the secret’ – nobody knew about SIUE. That’s changed. Our reputation has grown. It’s been fun to be a part of it, watching the campus mature.”

A man dedicated to community relations and improvement, Navin works tirelessly to serve the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon area both personally and professionally. Externally, he served on the Village Board of Glen Carbon for five years and is currently head of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the village. He believes that, “The community depends on us (SIUE). We depend on them, and the leadership is involved at the University. We’re not separate entities.”

As Navin serves as chair of the University Planning and Budget Council (UBPC), he and Hansen are direct correspondents when discussing the University’s revised budgeting initiatives. While Navin’s specialties include state and local economics, he notes, “This year, Illinois is proving an interesting test case.”

The two discuss the challenges of managing finances at the University level and explain that implementation of multiple budgeting models may be necessary to take advantage of financial leveraging opportunities.

Despite the state’s financial conditions, Navin emphasizes the economic health of SIUE and the institution’s importance to the area, citing that the University is the second-largest employer in the Metro East region (second only to Scott Air Force Base) and generates nearly a half-billion dollars annually for the community.

Navin elaborates on the advantages both current and prospective students have available to them in the SIUE SOB, mentioning the School’s outstanding reputation at both the regional and national level, as well as both undergraduate and graduate levels.

He continues by listing the School’s nine degree programs, lending special attention to the various specializations that fall under each degree. The dean adds that all business and accountancy degrees in the SOB are Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International accredited – a status of recognition achieved by only one other school in the St. Louis region.

The men conclude by discussing Navin’s enjoyment of golf, while also uncovering a unique collection he possesses.

Tune in to WSIE 88.7 FM every Sunday at 9 a.m. as weekly guests discuss issues on SIUE’s campus.

*By Logan Cameron, SIUE Marketing & Communications*