

THE MERIDIAN SOCIETY



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY
2025 - 2026

FOUNDATION

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE

About the Meridian Society



Mission

As an auxiliary organization of the SIUE Foundation, the Meridian Society promotes women's leadership and invests in SIUE community-based projects.

Our History

The Meridian Society officially launched its philanthropic mission in October 2003. It is an organization of women dedicated to supporting a variety of SIUE programs. The Society's name is based on the fact that the 90th Meridian, exactly one-fourth of the way around the world from the Prime Meridian, runs through the SIUE campus.

Meridian Society Endowment

Est. 2015

Meridian Society Endowment Fund 8300 Summary as of 10/29/2025

- Endowment Balance: \$93,509
 - Spendable Balance: \$13,465
 - FY25 Annual Growth: 12.6%
-





Our Founders



Caroline B. Anderson
Julie S. Babington
Sandra L. Chinn
Jane E. Coffey
Helen Damon
Dixie A. Engelman
Florence K. Gillig
Sharon K. Hahs
Rita A. Hardy
Mary N. Kane
Betty A. Krapf
Maryellen Mc Donald
Rowena McClinton
Valerie Meyer
Joyce Nyerges
Betty L. Schmidt
Jacquelyn K. Schmidt
Patricia M.
Schuetzenhofer
Sandra Schwartz
Eleanor N. Schweizer
Patricia Sim
Rose M. Somraty
Thornton
Mary R. Sumner
Suzanne Vandegrift
Jennifer K. Warren
Kay B. Werner
Carol K. Wetzel
Judy S. Wiemann





Meridian Society Presidents

Dr. Ethel Shanklin 2021-Present



Kimberly Vrooman
2017-2021



Alicia Lifrak
2014-2017



Elizabeth Keserauskis
2013-2014



Mary Sumner
2009-2012



Kelly Schmidt
2006-2009



Dixie Engelman
2003-2006

Board of Directors



Dr. Ethel Shanklin, President

Elizabeth Edwards, Vice President

Colleen V. Dettenmeier, Treasurer

Janice Johnson, Secretary

Marian Smithson, Awards Chair

Deborah Hunt, Membership Chair

Sandra Becker Warden, Member at Large

Diana L. McCracken, Member at Large

Julie Babington, Member + Staff Liaison

Meridian Awards

\$453,113 TOTAL AWARDED

165 PROJECTS FUNDED

Meridian Awards are funded through the pooled resources of our membership. These awards support collaborative projects led by an SIUE department in partnership with a community organization, creating meaningful impact on our campus, in our region, and beyond. Each project may receive up to \$5,000 in support, with recent awards averaging approximately \$2,500.



Meridian Society Members



Sandra Allen
Member Since 2009



Sandra Becker-Warden
Member Since 2014



Roberta Anderson
Member Since 2014



Sara Berkbigler
Member Since 2024



Lucinda Antonacci-Fulton
Member Since 2025



Dolores Cantrell
Member Since 2022



Carrie Babington
Member Since 2016



Sandra Chinn
Founding Member
2003



Julie Babington
Founding Member
2003



Jane Coffey
Founding Member
2003

Meridian Society Members



Connie Collins
Member Since 2024



Kiah Earl
Member Since 2025



Jodi Cox
Member Since 2025



Liz Edwards
Member Since 2019



Donna Crider
Member Since 2018



Dixie Engelman
Founding Member
2003



**Colleen
Dettenmeier**
Member Since 2015



Adrienne Groves
Member Since 2025



Sharon Dulle
Member Since 2019

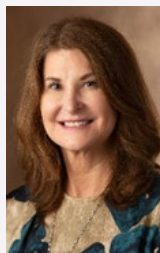


Julia Hansen
Member Since 2015

Meridian Society Members



Chris/Angie
Herndon
Member Since 2013



Deanna Kasich
Member Since 2021



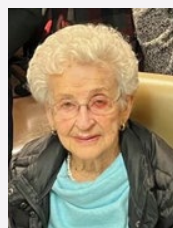
Robin Hughes
Member Since 2024



Judy Liesveld
Member Since 2024



Deborah Hunt
Member Since 2012



Shirley Malench
Member Since 2019



Jan Johnson
Member Since 2015



Rowena
McClinton
Founding Member
2003



Frances
Karanovich
Member Since 2015



Diana McCracken
Member Since 2016

Meridian Society Members



Beverly Meyer
Member Since 2014



Ethel Shanklin
Member Since 2019



Janine Meyer
Member Since 2022



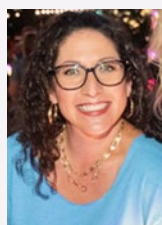
Marian Smithson
Member Since 2008



Marcy Pinnell
Member Since 2014



Kate Sobieralski
Member Since 2022



Lisa Reifsteck
Member Since 2018



Meg Solon
Member Since 2019



Fredna Scroggins
Member Since 2013



Jennifer Stedelin
Member Since 2023

Meridian Society Members



Mary Sumner
Founding Member
2003



Teresa
Townsend
Member Since 2016



Cathy Taylor
Member Since 2014



Kim Vrooman
Member Since 2014



JoAnn Taylor
Member Since 2018



Jane Weingartner
Member Since 2017



Laura
Thompson
Member Since 2010



Kay B. Werner
Founding Member
2003



Andrea Tolden
Hughes
Member Since 2022



Marie Williams
Member Since 2018

Meridian Society Members



S. LaVernn Wilson
Member Since 2006



Jenell Wright
Member Since 2019

Upcoming Events

Meridian Society By-Law Review Committee Meeting



Wednesday, November 19, 2025



2:00 p.m. (Virtual)



Link to be provided

Together, we will:

- Review, evaluate, and refresh the Meridian Society By-Laws
- Share new ideas that support our mission and honor our legacy

Meridian Society Awards Reception



Wednesday, April 1, 2026



5–7 p.m.



Birger Hall

The Meridian Society has proudly funded **165 projects** and awarded more than **\$453,000** to support meaningful community initiatives. Join us as we celebrate the impact of our members, enjoy the **Big Check presentations**, and see firsthand how Meridian Society dollars are creating lasting change!

THE MERIDIAN SOCIETY

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

An auxiliary of the SIUE Foundation, the Meridian Society is a philanthropic group that empowers women and invests in community-based projects at SIUE.

Our Impact 50+ Members | **\$453,113**
Awarded **165** Projects Funded



SCAN ME

siue.edu/meridian-society/membership