INVITATION to attend Civic Soul recording session for the program entitled

Independent Living

On Improving the Quality of Life in Carbondale of Persons with Disabilities

Friday, April 3, 2015, 4:00 – 6:00 PM, Studio A, Communication Building, SIU

Program **

- Video presenting issues, policy changes & action options by residents of Carbondale & Bonnie Vaughn, Executive Director, Southern Illinois Center for Independent Living.

- Informed Discussion of issues & proposals with audience participation. Discussants include:
  - Sarah Durbin, Director, Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois, Springfield
  - Ann Ford, Director, Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living, Springfield
  - Sam Goodin, Director, Disability Support Services, Southern Illinois University Carbondale
  - Mayor Don Monty, Carbondale
  - Dr. Kathy Taylor, Cornerstone Counselor and faculty member SIU Rehabilitation Institute
  - Bonnie Vaughn, Director, Southern Illinois Center for Independent Living

  Facilitators: Professor Jonathan Gray & Sean McGahan.

* Civic Soul is a media production of Imagining Geographies, an initiative of the SIU College of Mass Communication & Media Arts, Carbondale.
  Peter Lemish (SIU Journalism) - Producer ~ Hassan Pitts – videographer ~ Dean Reese, Interviewer.

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QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED

“A caring city must not only meet the letter of the law, but it should strive to be a caring place for all of its residents. To do so, city representatives, shop owners, & residents should seek to understand our perspectives, needs, and experiences”. Interviewee, 2015

“I am able to be a functioning member of society largely with government assistance. However, all too often social, cultural, economic, physical, and attitudinal barriers in our city’s environment can disable me.” Statement agreed upon by 100% of interviewees, 2015.

1. What are the key needs and issues related to Carbondale’s physical, social, economic, and public environment that persons with disabilities feel need to be addressed?

2. What actions can be taken by persons with disabilities to advance their own interests? Who should be their partners in doing so?

3. What policy changes & actions are being undertaken in other communities to advance the quality of life of persons with disabilities that should be considered in Carbondale?

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** Please access our rich collection of resources about this program’s topic at -
  www.civicsoul.wordpress.com