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June 10, 2006 6:59AM

## South Bend college building bridge to campus

IUSB footbridge construction ahead of schedule.

MARGARET FOSMOE  
Tribune Staff Writer

**SOUTH BEND** -- A bright splash of crimson spans the St. Joseph River on South Bend's east side.

The eye-catching structure is Indiana University South Bend's new pedestrian bridge. Construction is progressing smoothly, with completion expected by late August.

"We're quite a bit ahead of schedule," said David Herweyer, project manager for BayShore Contractors, the primary firm on the project.

Begun last fall, construction had been scheduled to finish by late September. Good weather and no surprises have moved the project along at a rapid pace.

"This has been one of



**Worker Kip Edel cleans deck frame of the Indian University South Bend pedestrian bridge this week in preparation for the pouring of concrete.**

Tribune Photos/MARCUS MARTER

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the smoothest projects I've been on," said James W. Schulz, a construction representative for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is overseeing the project.

White letters spelling "Indiana University South Bend" stand out on the bridge's decorative grid of red

steel.

That sign soon will light up at night. There also will be lights at foot level atop the bridge's deck and on the stone piers that support the bridge.

Pouring of concrete for the last section of the bridge deck occurred Thursday.

The bridge spans Northside Drive about 15 feet above the street and reaches a height of about 25 feet above the river.

The bridge's top railing is about 4 1/2 feet tall, providing pedestrians a great view of a curve in the river east of downtown South Bend.

The bridge's concrete deck has a light "broom" finish, which should help provide traction for foot traffic during rain and snow, Herweyer said.

The bridge leads from near Schurz Library on the IUSB campus to 26 acres of vacant land the university owns south of the St. Joseph River. Plans are for parking lots, university athletic fields and eventually student apartments to be built on the land.

The bridge construction cost about \$2 million, with \$1.4 million from federal sources and the rest budgeted by IUSB.

A pedestrian bridge was first proposed 17 years ago as part of a campus master plan.

IUSB's "Bridge Cam" provides a 24-hour-a-day photo feed of progress on the bridge: [www.iusb.edu/bridgecam](http://www.iusb.edu/bridgecam).

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