

# SIUE discusses expanding exchange in India's JSS University

by Megan Wieser

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Southern Illinois University Edwardsville continues its exploration and integration of global partnerships throughout its academic disciplines. Expansion of an already successful pharmacy exchange program to include the University's breadth of health sciences was the topic of discussion during a visit from the vice chancellor of India's [Jagadguru Sri Shivarathreeshwara \(JSS\) University](#).

B. Suresh, MPharm, PhD, Sc.D., visited with SIUE administrators on Wednesday, Nov. 23. The leaders' discussed the possibility of future collaborations that would strengthen students' academic and experiential learning opportunities.

“Today in this world, understanding each other is important, both culturally and socially,” Suresh said. “This time of collaboration helps in advancing knowledge by sharing our resources. It helps us to understand the culture of different countries and the people, and that brings more tolerance when students go out and try to be responsible citizens.”

The SIUE School of Pharmacy has partnered with JSS College of Pharmacy since 2014 to offer a student exchange program. Two students in their final year of pharmacy education have the opportunity to complete an elective rotation at each respective institution. SIUE students spend five weeks in India, while JSS students spend eight weeks in the U.S.



Two exchange students from the JSS College of Pharmacy, Nickita Benny and Bhagya Sree, are currently shadowing SIUE's Kelly Gable, PharmD, BCPP, in the department of psychiatry in a St. Louis family healthcare center.

“My professional goal is to become a well-established pharmacist,” said Benny. “This program has helped me experience the mode of practices used in America, which are totally different from India. I am planning to come back to the U.S. after completion of my studies, so I thought this would be great exposure for me to understand practices here.”

“This was an unexpected opportunity which came to me after attending an interview at our college,” explained Sree. “I was the luckiest among the interviewees to come to SIUE to experience and explore the institution and the pharmacy setup. We have received good training from our institution, but we can now see a different way of practicing pharmacy. After undergoing this program, we will have an idea of what a clinical pharmacist should be and our role for patients.”

Along with its College of Pharmacy, JSS University houses a Medical College and Dental College at its main campus in Mysore, India.

[Southern Illinois University Edwardsville](#) provides students with a high quality, affordable education that prepares them for successful careers and lives of purpose to shape a changing world. Built on the foundation of a broad-based liberal education, and enhanced by hands-on research and real-world experiences, the academic preparation SIUE students receive equips them to thrive in the global marketplace and make our communities better places to live. Situated on 2,660 acres of beautiful woodland atop the bluffs overlooking the natural beauty of the Mississippi River's rich bottomland and only a short drive from downtown St. Louis, the SIUE campus is home to a diverse student body of more than 14,000.