

Former Addison resident opening new school in England

Fulbright scholar Stephen Steinhaus to assist pupils who seek alternative learning

Former Addison resident and Fighting Illini football player and Fulbright Scholar Stephen Steinhaus (Ardmore, Fullerton, Indian Trail Addison Trail) is opening a brand new Free School for 13-16 year old pupils in Solihull, England this April. Solihull Academy will open with 30 9th grade students (ages 13-14) drawn from across all 15 Solihull secondary schools. It will open fully in September 2018 with up to 110 students in grades 9 – 11.

Solihull Academy offers an alternative solution for students whose mainstream education is simply not working for a range of different reasons.

Steinhaus, who grew up in Addison and graduated from Addison Trail in 1991, graduated from the U of I with a degree in Teaching of English. He then earned an MPhil in English Literature at The Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-upon-Avon and a MA in Creative Writing from The University of Hawaii.

“Our school is not being built as a short-stay provision to intervene and then send students back to mainstream schools,” Steinhaus explained. “That type of intervention and respite may be a small part of our provision but, in the main, we will be a destination school, not a stopping-off point. The vast majority of our students will be registered with us as their home school. .. The strapline is simple, we must be the difference for our students who have a desperate need for something different.”

Class sizes will be small (maximum of 10-12), the curriculum will be innovative and bespoke and the building will have been extensively refurbished with a number of added benefits.

“The strapline is simple,” said Steinhaus. “We must be the difference for our students who have a desperate need for something different.”

A former three-sport letter winner for the Blazers, Steinhaus is no stranger to a challenge:

“Solihull Academy is an ambitious undertaking,” he said. “We will work incredibly hard, but we will play hard as well, and we are creating a community of leaders and educators who can change the educational futures and life chances for every student who comes to us and, thereby, change what education looks like in Solihull and the west Midlands of England.”