

Local

SIUC joins organ and tissue registry drive

BY SCOTT FITZGERALD, THE SOUTHERN

CARBONDALE - Southern Illinois University Carbondale students are being asked to join with approximately 20 universities and colleges throughout the state in a campaign designed to update the organ and tissue donor registry.

Termed "I Am. Are You?" campus challenge, people are being asked to fill out new registration cards that comply with a state law enacted Jan. 1, 2006, ensuring donor wishes to have organs and tissues go to people in need.

"It's a first-person consent that ensures their wish for being a donor is carried out," said Dave Bosch of the Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network and Donate Life Illinois.

Many people assume that a personal signature on the back of their driver's licenses is adequate for consent, but that consent has been challenged and overruled in many cases.

The new law does not allow that to happen, but it requires re-registration, Bosch said.

SIUC sophomore Alex Dover of the Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity at SIUC is coordinating the campus challenge here.

He said Monday that a table will be available in the SIUC Student Center Oct. 16 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Faner Hall Breezeway on Oct. 23 for students and anyone else to re-register.

People who want to donate their organs and tissues must be at least 18 and show proof of age such as a driver's license, Dover said.

"The challenge is an excellent opportunity to not only register students on our own campus, but to connect with groups and organizations from other Illinois colleges to reach students throughout the state," Dover said.

scott.fitzgerald@thesouthern.com / 351-5076