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Lilly Endowment awards first grants in CAPE III

Sixteen counties throughout Indiana will benefit from \$12.8 million in grants from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help them sustain successes under previous grants in the initiative called Community Alliances to Promote Education (CAPE).

The initiative is an effort to encourage local communities, via their community foundations, to prioritize their area's most compelling education needs and devise strategies to address them successfully.

In earlier, competitive rounds of CAPE, the Endowment invested \$186.5 million in programs covering 44 counties. Up to \$5 million was available for each county served, and grants were made in 2000 and 2001.

"The Endowment has been consistently pleased and gratified by the work done in these counties to increase the educational benefits for their citizens, from preschool through lifelong learning," said Sara B. Cobb, Endowment vice president for education.

"Community members have enthusiastically taken leadership roles to inspire and support a wide range of collaborative, educational programs focusing on their community's highest priority needs. Through their efforts, parent involvement in local schools has increased; distance learning opportunities have been expanded; school performance standards have been established and monitored; teacher professional development has been enhanced; and residents of all ages have learned to read better," she said.

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This round of CAPE, which was announced last September, is a two-part initiative. One part assists current CAPE grantees in sustaining their successes. The Endowment expects that many grantees will propose to enhance development and fund-raising efforts relating to the CAPE programs and to pursue strategies to integrate over time the costs of the most valued CAPE programs into the ongoing budgets of the CAPE grantees and their community partners. Existing grantees are eligible to apply for grants up to \$800,000 per county served. Although this part is not competitive, funding is not guaranteed and only proposals that show promise will be approved. The final deadline for applications is June 30, 2005.

The second part is a competitive grant program for counties not currently being served by CAPE programs. Proposals for new programs are due by April 30, and grants will be made in the fall. Counties with populations of 50,000 or more are eligible to apply for up to \$1.5 million per county served and foundations in counties with less than 50,000 may apply for up to \$750,000 per county served.

The Endowment expects that up to \$50.2 million will be awarded by the conclusion of this round of CAPE.

Several current CAPE grantees submitted proposals for early consideration. The first CAPE “renewal” grantees are the following:

Allen County

Community Partnerships, Fort Wayne, \$800,000, early-childhood literacy program. Through its original CAPE grant, Community Partnerships implemented an early literacy program which provides countywide developmental screenings for preschool children, parent training and support for preschool and elementary children, and reading remediation/early intervention programs for elementary students through second grade. Also, a public awareness campaign was established to promote family literacy. This grant will enable the county to build on its progress in the elementary schools by re-establishing literacy-focused teacher training. Also, a more refined public-relations awareness campaign will target young parents ages 18 to 24.

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Brown County

County School Corp. of Brown County, Nashville, \$600,000, education and career resource center. The original CAPE grant established the education and career-development resource center, which provides education opportunities and services to youth and adults. The center offers credit and noncredit college courses, technology certifications, teacher professional development, adult basic education and GED courses, and career counseling. This grant will enable the center to continue offering the most valued education services and programs, further strengthening its relevance and impact in the community. To strengthen the community partnership relating to the CAPE programs, this year the school corporation will acquire the facility that houses the center.

Brown County Community Foundation, Nashville, \$200,000, operating endowment to support CAPE program sustainability. These grant funds will be added to an endowment of \$1 million, which was established at the community foundation with funds from the first CAPE grant, to provide a source of revenue to help with the ongoing operating expenses of the education and career resource center.

DeKalb County

DeKalb County Fund for the Future, Auburn, \$800,000, countywide early literacy initiative. The DeKalb County Parent Group for Handicapped Children (also known as the Children First Center), as grantee for the first round of CAPE, developed a two-part program: home-based support and intervention for preschool children and their families and literacy-focused professional development for teachers in K-2 grades. Now the group has endorsed the DeKalb County Fund for the Future, a supporting organization of the DeKalb County Community Foundation, as the grantee for this new round of funding. Besides serving as an ongoing education resource in the community, the fund will provide interim staffing and other support as the home-based component is integrated into the programming of an existing local agency. Also, grant funds will enable the

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professional development component to be expanded to additional elementary grades. The local school corporations have agreed to assume the costs for literacy-focused professional development beyond the end of the grant period.

Noble County

Community Initiatives, Ligonier, \$800,000, initiative to promote pre-K-12 education, workforce development and multicultural awareness. To address the education needs of a rapidly growing non-English-speaking population, the original CAPE grant in Noble County established a series of programs. These included a communication center, expanded after-school programs, a bilingual internship program, preschool education and support, and partnerships between the libraries and schools to offer multicultural programs and training. Also, an endowment was established to help sustain the CAPE programs. To build on the progress, these new grant funds will be used to maintain two key programs, the communication center and the internship program, as well as support a development staff position to encourage educational activities in the county. Also, a grant fund will be established to which organizations and/or programs may apply, on a match basis, for funds to support activities consistent with the goals of the county's original CAPE project.

St. Joseph County

Community Foundation of St. Joseph County, South Bend, \$800,000, early-childhood intervention program. The original CAPE program targeted the needs of children from birth through age 8 through three approaches: parent education and support, enhanced preschool program curriculum, and reading remediation programs in elementary schools. This grant will facilitate the transition of the parent program to an established local partner, provide funds to implement a "train-the-trainer" model, and replace the current remediation programs with more effective programs and services. Also, an endowment of \$250,000 will be established at the community foundation to provide a source of revenue to sustain successful CAPE programs.

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**Vanderburgh, Daviess, Gibson, Knox, Pike, Perry, Posey, Warrick and
Spencer counties**

Alliance Initiatives Fund, Evansville, \$7.2 million, regional literacy and teacher development program. The Alliances Initiatives Fund, a supporting organization of the Community Foundation Alliance, will use the new grant to support educational programs in a nine-county area of southwest Indiana. These programs will be conducted principally by the Southwest Indiana Network for Education (SINE), which implemented a variety of programs under the original CAPE grant. SINE will continue to serve as a facilitator and catalyst for education issues in four primary areas: youth and adult literacy, at-risk youth, professional development for teachers, and education-business-community partnerships. Grant funds also will be used to enhance the local CAPE fund-raising efforts and to promote collaboration among area education providers.

Wabash County

Community Foundation of Wabash County, North Manchester, \$800,000, collaborative effort to enhance K-12 and adult education. This new grant will provide for additional financial and technical assistance support for four programs: parent training, child-care provider training, adult education/literacy, and college planning and preparation. The support will be tapered gradually over a two-year period until the programs are fully integrated into the budgets of partner organizations. Also, grant funds will be used to enhance existing endowments for the programs.

Warren County

Metropolitan School District of Warren County, Williamsport, \$800,000, learning and technology center for K-12 and adult education. The original CAPE grant funded a multifaceted program that targeted the needs of preschool and school-aged children and their families, teachers, and adult learners. The programs provided enhanced access to technology, teacher and child-care provider training, remedial reading and math support, alternative education, full-day kindergarten and career planning. The community has

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found resources to sustain most of the successful programs under the first CAPE grant. This grant will build on these successful programs by providing resources for a number of purposes, namely, full-day kindergarten and alternative K-12 education programs, adult education programs, program coordination, marketing and promotion, and technology upgrades.