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### Lilly Endowment program encourages giving to Indiana colleges and universities

In an effort to encourage philanthropy for Indiana colleges and universities from those who should care most about them, Lilly Endowment Inc. has approved a potentially \$138 million “Special Initiative to Strengthen Philanthropy for Indiana Higher Education Institutions.”

Each of Indiana’s 38 two- and four-year private and public accredited colleges and universities is challenged to raise up to \$3.5 million from alumni, parents and students, faculty and staff. Whatever each school raises up to the \$3.5 million will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Endowment.

“It is known that higher education institutions that have broad support from their alumni and other interested parties are frequently among the strongest institutions in the country,” said Sara B. Cobb, Endowment vice president for education. “We hope that this initiative will cause more of those closest to Indiana institutions to develop habits of supporting them. We also hope that in providing that support they will become more engaged in the affairs of their college or university.

“We all know the absolute importance of a college degree in today’s world,” she said. “This initiative is designed to strengthen the ability of Indiana’s higher education institutions to offer the best academic experiences they can for their students.”

All the funds will be used for academic purposes such as permanent endowments, programs, capital needs, equipment, scholarship support and curriculum development.

(more)

Strengthen Philanthropy for Indiana Higher Education Institutions  
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The Endowment's matching grant funds will be allocated at the discretion of each institution's president. The breakdown of the challenge "package" is as follows:

- Up to \$3 million must come from alumni. Of this amount, up to \$250,000 may be from other interested individuals or organizations not included in any of the other categories. (Alumni include persons who have completed credit hours toward a degree and who are not currently enrolled at the school.),
- Up to \$250,000 from parents and students (including parents of alumni), and
- Up to \$250,000 from current or former faculty and staff.

Colleges may participate in the initiative by sending a letter of intent to the Endowment by June 15. Each participating school will receive \$150,000 to cover expenses associated with this fund-raising campaign. The matching period begins June 1 and ends Dec. 31, 2003.

This program complements an earlier approved, potentially \$38 million initiative for the same institutions, the "Initiative to Strengthen Board Commitment." Through that initiative, the Endowment provides challenge grants to encourage giving by members of the governing boards of Indiana colleges and universities.