



For Immediate Release

November 15, 2005

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Lilly Endowment Awards \$12.3 Million Grant to Hispanic Scholarship Fund

*Leading Hispanic Higher Education Organization Launches 30-Year Anniversary
With Grant Announcement*

SAN FRANCISCO –The Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) announces that it has received a \$12.3 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to launch a new collaborative pilot program with leading universities while expanding the reach of HSF’s six regional offices. This gift follows a landmark \$50 million grant that the Indianapolis-based Endowment made to HSF in 1999, which remains today the single largest contribution ever made to a Hispanic organization in U.S. history.

“The Hispanic Scholarship Fund is foremost a student-centric organization. All of our effort goes toward helping students graduate from high school, enter college and graduate with their degrees,” said Sara Martinez Tucker, HSF president and CEO. “We are so grateful that Lilly Endowment shares our belief in the promise of this country’s Latino children.

“By extending its substantial support of the HSF model and our programs, Lilly Endowment recognizes that HSF is fulfilling its promise to increase educational attainment among Hispanic students, the fastest growing minority in the country. With support such as the Endowment gift, we are on the way to fulfilling our mission of doubling the rate at which Latinos graduate from college,” Tucker added.

“Lilly Endowment believes that a higher education is essential for all those who aspire toward a better quality of life for themselves and their families,” said Sara B. Cobb, Endowment vice president for education. “The work that HSF has embarked upon addresses an ever-increasing need in this country, and great strides have been made. The Endowment is convinced that this work must continue. With its knowledge of the Hispanic community, HSF is in an excellent position to leverage its past successes and collaborate on new programs with universities and other partners to encourage more Hispanic youth to pursue higher education and stay in college through graduation.”

Among the core initiatives of the grant is a pilot program to establish HSF partnerships at two college campuses. The goal of the program is to create, tailor and strengthen best practices for recruiting, retaining and graduating Hispanic students.

The pilot program will be conducted concurrently this fall at the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Georgia in Athens. HSF selected these institutions to test two different scenarios. In Texas, the pilot will involve a geographic region with an established Hispanic community and an institution that has a long history of attracting and retaining Latino students.

“As the number of Latino students in Texas continues to rise and the university explores how it can improve college graduation rates among Hispanic students, relationships with organizations such as the Hispanic Scholarship Fund are important to our success,” said University of Texas at Austin President Larry Faulkner. “We look forward to building on current programs whose aims are to retain and support our Latino students.”

The University of Georgia pilot program will be implemented in an area of the country with an emerging Latino population and from a campus that has few programs supporting Latino college enrollment and retention.

“Georgia’s Hispanic population has grown 300 percent in the last decade and is the third-fastest growing in the country,” said University of Georgia President Michael Adams. “Our ability to identify and participate in innovative programs that better serve the Hispanic community will benefit not only our state but the country. Our partnership with HSF expands on our work in helping increase educational attainment among Hispanics.”

Another portion of the grant is earmarked to help establish and invigorate HSF’s regional offices. HSF will continue to decentralize its work so that regional offices can provide programs and support specifically tailored to local and regional needs. Regional staff will focus on community outreach programs that raise higher education expectations and create a “college-going mindset” among Latino families.

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) is the nation’s leading organization supporting Hispanic higher education. Founded in 1975, HSF’s vision is to strengthen the country by advancing college education among Hispanic Americans, the largest minority segment of the U.S. population. In support of its mission to double the rate of Hispanics earning college degrees, HSF, a 501(c)3 not-for profit organization, provides the Latino community more college scholarships and educational outreach support than any other organization in the country. During its 30-year history, HSF has awarded more than 73,000 scholarships totaling nearly \$170 million to Latinos from all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands who have attended more than 1,700 colleges and universities.

Routinely listed among the nation’s largest foundations, Lilly Endowment is a private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by three members of the Lilly family – J.K. Lilly Sr. and sons J.K. Jr. and Eli – through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. In keeping with the wishes of its founders, Lilly Endowment exists to support the causes of education, religion, and community development.