



Contact: Gretchen Wolfram  
317/916-7304  
317/255-2640 (home)

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### Lilly Endowment offers \$100 million to attract “intellectual capital” to colleges and universities

Continuing its efforts to help Indiana colleges and universities achieve higher standards of excellence, Lilly Endowment Inc. has announced a new, \$100 million program, the “Initiative to Recruit and Retain Intellectual Capital for Indiana Higher Education Institutions.”

The initiative will encourage the schools to consider how they can attract or keep more of the brightest and most talented minds in Indiana. They will consider all aspects of intellectual capital, including full- or part-time or adjunct faculty, scholars and researchers, visiting fellows, graduate or undergraduate students, administrators, staff and so forth. They also will be invited to think about other means to recruit and retain intellectual capital such as making their facilities more attractive and competitive by equipping or renovating teaching, learning or research space.

A look at higher education across the country shows that colleges and universities, the major reservoirs of intellectual capital, are increasingly being looked to for their leadership and vision in efforts to address state and regional economic growth and vitality concerns.

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“Indiana colleges and universities have performed admirably in carrying out recent Endowment initiatives, such as the Initiative to Promote Opportunity through Educational Collaborations, the Initiative to Strengthen Board Commitment and the Initiative to Strengthen Philanthropy for Indiana Higher Education Institutions,” said Sara B. Cobb, Endowment vice president for education. “They have made progress in improving the state’s educational levels, but much remains to be done.”

“This new initiative is aimed at addressing the need to recruit and/or retain the most talented faculty, administrators and students so that the synergies and excitement that bright and open minds can create together in classrooms and labs and communities will have a leveraging effect on the excellence of these schools, their faculties and students. Although there is certainly impressive intellectual talent and energy on Indiana campuses, more is needed,” she said.

According to statistics in the *2003-2004 Almanac Issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education*,\* the public university salary for full-time faculty in Indiana is almost 7 percent less than the national average and 16 percent less than Michigan; Indiana colleges and universities generally do not rank highly in the number of National Merit Scholars they attract; no Indiana college or university is on the list of the top 50 higher education institutions with respect to federal research and development expenditures; and last, Indiana institutions significantly lag behind institutions in others states in the amount of licensing revenues and patent activity.

“These indicators do not bode well for the future of Indiana or the competitiveness of our higher education institutions,” Cobb said. “Looking at what is happening outside Indiana, it is apparent that a confluence of factors drives high-performing states. These include exceptional institutions of higher education with excellent faculties and students; a confederation of minds in the public, private and nonprofit sectors that are committed to work together for the betterment of the state, and the realization by the citizens of those states that they are part of a ‘success story’ that

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heralds good lives for themselves and their children. We believe Indiana has the potential to be a high-performing state.”

Thirty-seven of Indiana’s two- and four-year public and private colleges and universities will be invited to submit a proposal under this initiative. The amount of each grant will depend on the institution’s enrollment. The amounts offered, therefore, are the following:

- Indiana University Foundation, \$26 million
- Purdue Research Foundation, \$17.5 million
- Ivy Tech Foundation, \$12.5 million
- Ball State University Foundation, \$5 million
- University of Notre Dame, \$3 million
- Indiana State University, \$3 million
- Indiana Wesleyan University, \$2.5 million
- University of Southern Indiana, \$2.5 million
- Vincennes University Foundation, \$1.5 million
- Ancilla College, \$500,000
- College of the Holy Cross, \$500,000
- Martin University, \$500,000

The remaining 25 institutions may each request \$1 million.

The Endowment expects the proposals to be submitted by September, although some may be submitted before then. Representatives from each university will be invited to attend a briefing next month on the initiative.

“We are eager to see what Indiana colleges and universities will propose under this initiative,” Cobb noted. “We expect to see ambitious and ingenious proposals.”

\* Please see the *Almanac Issue* (Aug. 29, 2003) for more details about these statistics, i.e. the years to which the statistics relate, etc.