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### Lilly Endowment extends public school program in Marion County

Four years ago Lilly Endowment Inc. awarded more than \$44 million to Marion County public schools to design programs or projects that would make a strategic advancement in their ability to prepare students to prosper in an increasingly global economy. In this competitive initiative, grants were awarded to seven school districts, which have been reporting improvements in student achievement, technology training, professional development for teachers and staff, and volunteer activity.

To keep the creative momentum going in these districts – and to offer grants to districts that did not participate in the first round – the Endowment is offering “round 2” of the initiative. All 11 districts will be eligible for grants that equal \$100 per student served, whether the districts are requesting new or sustaining grants.

Requests for proposals are being sent to each public school district. Although this round of the initiative is not competitive, only proposals that show promise for furthering the initiative’s aims will be funded. The final deadline for submitting proposals is March 15, 2005, although some districts may be prepared to submit proposals before then.