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## **Lilly Endowment Invites Educators to Apply for 2016 Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program**

*New deadline supports summer planning; grants increase in value*

INDIANAPOLIS – The Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program of Lilly Endowment Inc. has a new deadline this year that allows educators to spend time during summer break to design personal renewal projects for 2016 that will nurture their commitment to education.

Indiana teachers, principals, assistant principals, guidance counselors and library/media specialists can apply now through Sept. 1. One hundred grants are available at \$12,000 each. Their value reflects a 20 percent increase over last year's grants.

Launched in 1987, the Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program is part of the Endowment's longstanding commitment to renewal experiences. It supports similar grant programs for artists, pastors, youth workers and individuals serving in the human services sector.

At a time when educators face many demands that can deplete their energies, renewal experiences offer teachers freedom to restore creativity and strengthen professional commitment, said Sara B. Cobb, vice president for education at the Endowment.

"Teachers spend so much of their time focused on the lives of the students they serve," Cobb said. "These grants give educators time to tend to their own growth and personal fulfillment."

The competitive program is open to licensed k-12 educators working in public and private schools across Indiana. Applicants must have at least three years of professional experience in education.

Since the program's inception, 2,700 educators have taken part in the fellowship program. Many have traveled nationally and internationally to trace their own ethnic heritages and family histories or to understand the cultures reflected in their increasingly diverse student populations. Some have reconnected with longstanding personal interests such as

mountain biking, gardening, hiking and photography. Others have pursued new interests in the arts, environmental exploration and history.

For more information about the Teacher Creativity application process and to learn about 2015 fellowship winners go to [www.teachercreativity.org](http://www.teachercreativity.org).

### **About Lilly Endowment Inc.**

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based, 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. However, the Endowment is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with the founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion and maintains a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana.