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Lilly Endowment boosts collegiate programs to explore theological vocation

The Endowment today announces \$17.8 million in grants to extend the programs in colleges that received grants in the first two rounds of its Programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation initiative. The Endowment also announces that schools that received grants in the third round will be invited to propose renewal grants to extend their programs for an additional three years.

Five years ago Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. embarked upon an ambitious initiative to encourage college students to draw on the wisdom of their religious traditions as they make decisions about their futures and to consider ministry as their career.

The Programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation (PTEV) initiative provided grants to church-related liberal arts colleges and universities across the country to support campuswide programs involving a wide variety of activities that encourage students, faculty and staff to engage in theological reflection on the purposes and character of their lives and work. The response was overwhelming.

(more)

Programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation
Add 1

The Endowment provided grants to 20 schools in 2000, 29 in 2001 and 39 in 2002. The grant amounts ranged from \$1.1 million to \$2 million. A total of 88 colleges and universities received support totaling \$176.8 million.

“We have been thrilled and delighted at the results so far,” reported Craig Dykstra, Endowment senior vice president for religion. “These schools have integrated programs and projects that are advancing the initiative’s aims: to encourage young people to explore Christian ministry as their possible life’s work, to help all students draw on their faith traditions in making vocational choices, and to enhance the capacity of each school’s faculty and staff to teach and mentor students effectively in these areas.

“The schools have come up with programs that best fit their own missions and campuses, and the fruits of these programs are starting to appear,” he noted. Program components include high-profile lecture series, class retreats, travel experiences, internships in congregations and faith-based organizations, chapel programming, fellowships to explore the ministry, studying the concept of vocation, collegewide convocations, summer theology institutes – their ideas are endless.

“The schools are noting significant increases in the number of their graduates enrolling in seminaries,” according to Dykstra. “They describe how their vocational exploration activities are working as catalysts in helping the schools reclaim their fundamental educational mission. They say their programs are leading them to build fresh connections with congregations and denominational bodies.

“At the same time, launching these programs, proving their value and building them into the everyday life of the school is hard work and takes time,” he said. “Therefore, the Endowment offered renewal grants for schools engaged in the first two rounds that will help keep their programs going while they raise the funds to sustain them over the long term.” Schools could request up to \$500,000 each to cover up to 50 percent of the cost of the overall program for three more years.

(more)

Programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation
Add 2

Colleges and universities that have received grants are the following:

Alma (Mich.) College -- \$500,000 for continuation of the Discovering Vocation project through the Center for Responsible Leadership

Augsburg College, Minneapolis -- \$500,000 for continuation of the Exploring Our Gifts project

Austin College, Sherman, Texas -- \$403,100 for continuation of the Lilly Project for Theological Exploration of Vocation

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Mass. -- \$500,000 for continuation of the Intersections Project

Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Mich. -- \$499,979 for continuation of the Kingdom Apprentices project

College of Holy Cross, Worcester, Mass -- \$500,000 for continuation of the Cultivating Hearts of Discernment project

Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn. -- \$500,000 for continuation of the Theological Exploration of Vocation project through the Institute for Faith and Public Life

Davidson (N.C.) College -- \$500,000 for continuation of the Theological Exploration of Vocation project

Fairfield (Conn.) University -- \$500,000 for continuation of the Ignatian Residential College

Furman University, Greenville, S.C. -- \$455,364 for continuation of the Lilly Center for Theological Exploration of Vocation

Georgetown (Ky.) College -- \$500,000 for continuation of the Meetinghouse project

Grinnell (Iowa) College -- \$330,000 for continuation of the Lilly Program on the Liberal Arts and Vocation

(more)

Programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation
Add 3

Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minn. -- \$466,252 for continuation of the
Center for Vocational Reflection

Hanover (Ind.) College -- \$500,000 for continuation of the Theological
Exploration of Vocation project through the Center for Church Leadership

Hendrix College, Conway, Ark. -- \$500,000 for continuation of the Lilly-Hendrix
Vocations Initiative

Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Ind. -- \$500,000 for continuation of the
Life-Calling Initiative

Loyola University of Chicago -- \$500,000 for continuation of EVOKE (Eliciting
Vocation through Knowledge and Engagement) project

Luther College, Decorah, Iowa -- \$480,251 for continuation of the Sense of
Vocation project

Manchester College, North Manchester, Ind. -- \$393,821 for continuation of the
Pathways project

Marquette University, Milwaukee -- \$500,000 for continuation of the Manresa
Project

Maryville (Tenn.) College -- \$499,823 for continuation of the Vocation Initiative

Messiah College, Grantham, Pa. -- \$500,000 for continuation of the Christian
Vocation project

Millsaps College, Jackson, Miss. -- \$338,000 for continuation of the Faith and
Work Initiative

Pepperdine University, Malibu, Calif. -- \$500,000 for continuation of the
Pepperdine Voyage project

St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn. -- \$500,000 for continuation of the
Theological Exploration of Vocation project through the Office of Mission, Vocation and
Ministry

St. Louis University -- \$499,944 for continuation of the Voices Project

Seattle Pacific University -- \$500,000 for continuation of the SERVE (Spiritual
and Educational Resources for Vocational Exploration) project

(more)

Programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation
Add 4

St. Norbert College, De Pere, Wis. -- \$500,000 for continuation of the Program
of Faith, Learning and Vocation

Transylvania University, Lexington, Ky. -- \$424,504 for continuation of the Lilly
Project at Transylvania

University of Dayton (Ohio) -- \$500,000 for continuation of the Program for
Christian Leadership

University of Indianapolis -- \$500,000 for continuation of the Vocation Project

University of Notre Dame (Ind.) -- \$500,000 for continuation of the Notre Dame
Vocation Initiative

University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn. -- \$500,000 for continuation of the
Beyond Career to Calling project

University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn. -- \$426,842 for continuation of the
Theological Exploration of Vocation project

Valparaiso (Ind.) University -- \$500,000 for continuation of the Theological
Exploration of Vocation project

Whitworth College, Spokane, Wash. -- \$500,000 for continuation of the
Theological Exploration of Vocation project

Willamette University, Salem, Ore. -- \$500,000 for continuation of the
Theological, Spiritual and Ethical Exploration of Vocation project