



Note to editors and reporters: Previous PTEV grants and their descriptions are available on the Lilly Endowment Web site, www.lillyendowment.org, and click on Communications. Also, stories about this initiative appear in the Endowment's annual reports of 2000, 2002 and 2004. These reports also are available on the Endowment's Web site. Other sources are the PTEV Web site (www.ptev.org), or any of the individual college's Web sites.

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Lilly Endowment announces renewal grants in popular PTEV initiative

It all started modestly enough about seven years ago. "It" is an initiative of Lilly Endowment called Programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation, PTEV for short. The initiative reflects the Endowment's longtime interest in the Christian ministry and the necessity to encourage bright and committed new generations of young adults to energize and renew the ministerial profession in this country.

Proceeding on the view that many people's sense of vocation is formed when they are in college, the Endowment in 1999 invited a few private, church-related liberal arts colleges and universities around the country to participate in this new initiative. Over time, that program has grown to include 88 colleges and universities in 29 states.

The Endowment now announces that renewal grants are being made to 30 of these schools to enable them to build upon and extend what they have already accomplished. (Similar renewal grants were made last year to 39 other schools.) With these grants, the total Endowment investment for this program over the years has been more than \$217 million.

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Programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation
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“This initiative opened with three major aims: to encourage young people to explore Christian ministry as their possible life’s work, to help all students draw on the wisdom of their faith traditions in making career choices, and to enhance the capacity of the schools’ faculties and staffs to teach and mentor students in these areas,” said Craig Dykstra, senior vice president for religion at the Endowment.

“What these schools have accomplished – in bringing a sense of vocation to young people’s career choices – has been phenomenal,” he said. “We have heard from students, faculty, staff, alumni and even parents about the effectiveness of these college programs in encouraging young people to engage in vocational reflection. They are excited about it. We also have heard from seminary presidents and deans about a surge in high-quality applications for admission from students in PTEV schools.

“Each school, operating within its particular context of mission and history, has developed its own programmatic approach to addressing the basic aims of the program,” Dykstra continued. “But across the board we have heard how the language of vocation has been woven into the fabric of their institutions and how students have been transformed through internships in congregations and faith-based organizations, travel experiences, and other opportunities. It has been a joy to watch.”

The renewal grants come at a time when the campus programs are flourishing but also at a point when the original grant funds are being depleted. To allow the schools to continue their work and to weave their programs into an ongoing fabric of the schools’ offerings, the Endowment offers these renewal grants, which are intended to cover up to 50 percent of the costs of their programs for up to an additional three years.

The following 30 colleges are being awarded grants totaling nearly \$15 million to continue their projects:

Asbury College, Wilmore, Ky., \$500,000, Transformations Project

Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill., \$500,000, Center for Vocational Reflection

Bluffton (Ohio) University, \$499,156, Pathways to Mission and Vocation
program

(more)

Programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation
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Butler University, Indianapolis, \$404,815, Center for Faith and Vocation
Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee, \$500,000, Office of Vocation
Development
Catawba College, Salisbury, N.C., \$500,000, Lilly Center for Vocation and
Values
Creighton University, Omaha, Neb., \$386,898, Cardoner at Creighton program
Dillard University, New Orleans, \$499,510, VisionQuest program
Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa, \$500,000, Programs in Christian Vocation
Project
Duke University, Durham, N.C., \$500,000, PathWays program
Elmhurst (Ill.) College, \$500,000, Callings for the Common Good program
Evangel University, Springfield, Mo., \$500,000, Project Envision
Geneva College, Beaver Falls, Pa., \$497,500, Call Project
Gordon College, Wenham, Mass., \$500,000, Critical Loyalty project
Hamline University, St. Paul, Minn., \$500,000, Theological Exploration of
Vocation Project
Hastings (Neb.) College, \$499,997, Vocation and Values project
Hellenic College, Brookline, Mass., \$500,000, We Offer These Gifts project
Hope College, Holland, Mich., \$500,000, CrossRoads Project
Lee University, Cleveland, Tenn., \$500,000, Poiema Project
Marian College, Indianapolis, \$500,000, Rebuild My Church program
Milligan College, Tenn., \$500,000, Servant Leader Experience
Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa, \$499,800, Vocare project
Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, \$500,000, La Llamada/The Call
Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Wash., \$499,983, Wild Hope Project
St. Bonaventure (N.Y.) University, \$500,000, Journey Project
St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., \$429,694, Lives of Worth and Service project
Santa Clara (Calif.) College, \$500,000, DISCOVER project

(more)

Programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation
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Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa, \$500,000, Lilly Initiative for Vocational
Exploration project

Spelman College, Atlanta, \$462,534, Sisters Center for WISDOM

Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa, \$500,000, Discovering and Claiming Our
Callings Project

Endowment officials expect that, as other proposals are completed and finalized,
several further renewal grant announcements may come later this year.