



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

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**Lilly Endowment approves \$90 million  
in grants for students to consider faith commitments in career choices**

Twenty colleges and universities – from Louisiana to Massachusetts – have been awarded grants from of up to \$2 million each from Lilly Endowment Inc. to encourage students, faculties and administrations to examine how faith commitments can affect decisions young people make about their futures.

“These exciting grants directly address one of the major themes of the Endowment’s grantmaking in religion, and that is to help identify, recruit, call and nurture into Christian ministry a new generation of talented pastors,” said Craig Dykstra, Endowment vice president for religion.

“The caliber of proposals that we received in this initiative was absolutely outstanding,” he said. “It is clear to us that these schools have thought deeply and productively about this issue of encouraging young people to consider questions of faith and commitment when they choose their careers.”

Totaling \$39.7 million, the 20 grants were selected from 31 schools that were awarded planning grants in May 1999. The Endowment’s Board of Directors also approved a \$50 million commitment for a second round of grants in this invitational, competitive initiative for church-related schools.

The 20 colleges receiving grants (see attached list) will develop a variety of programs, such as enabling students to take internships in congregations or spend a semester at a theological school, revamping student orientation and academic advising, setting up ongoing seminars of faculty and local pastors, establishing honors programs in religious leadership, and hosting denomination-wide discussions on how best to

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Theological vocations  
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encourage young people to consider the ministry as a career.

“It is a well-documented fact that, for a variety of reasons, many talented young people are often not encouraged to consider a life in ministry,” Dykstra said. “It is also clear that congregations across the country need bright and determined young ministers to lead them in their journeys of faith. Many young people make pivotal decisions about their futures during college, and the Endowment hopes that these promising new programs will ensure that Christian ministry is in the mix for these young people. We also hope that they consider seriously their faith commitments as they make the career choices that seem best for them and then pursue their life interests.”

These programs, according to Dykstra, target a variety of specific student populations for different programs and focus on key transition moments such as freshman orientation and senior capstone courses. The participating colleges and universities also will establish partnerships with congregations, seminaries, sister schools and denominational offices as key elements of their programs.

During the next round of grants in this theological vocations initiative, the Endowment will invite some 50 colleges and universities to apply for planning grants of up to \$50,000. Planning grants will be awarded in January 2001. The implementation grants of between \$500,000 and \$2 million will be funded in November 2001.

The Endowment also has invested in other programs to attract bright young people into the ministry—and to increase the capacities of colleges and theological schools to address the related issues. Over the past two years in one initiative the Endowment has awarded \$54 million to 45 theology schools to develop programs to educate and support strong candidates for congregational ministry. In another initiative the Endowment has awarded \$14 million in grants to 25 theological schools to develop programs for high school youth.

Founded in 1937, the Endowment is an Indianapolis-based private family foundation that supports its founders’ wishes by supporting the causes of religion, community development and education.

**Note:** Attached is a list of colleges and universities that have received grants in this first round of funding in the Theological Vocational Exploration Programs initiative.

## **Theological Vocational Exploration Programs at Colleges and Universities**

### ***September 2000 Recipients***

#### **Baylor University, Waco, Texas, \$2 million**

Establish program called "Baylor Horizons: An Exploration of Vocation for a Life of Service." The program will implement a comprehensive set of 13 projects, ranging from new-student orientation to internships in area churches.

#### **Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Mass., \$2 million**

Grant will provide partial support for its "Men and Women for Others" program. Project will include a vocational orientation program for sophomores, internships in church ministry, producing information on the theological concept of vocation, and faculty and staff workshops and seminars.

#### **Davidson College, Davidson, N.C., \$1,979,770**

Project will foster a campus environment that encourages theological exploration of vocation and reflection on the relationships between one's faith commitments and life's work. The project will include activities such as providing summer internships for students in congregations, organizing alternative spring breaks for students to engage in mission work, supporting students to prepare for seminary.

#### **Earlham College, Richmond, Ind., \$1,994,947**

Support for "Project on Spiritual Formation: Faith, Vocation and Leadership." Centered on the Quaker tradition of individuals discerning and responding to God's call of service to others, the project will incorporate a model of spiritual formation into several areas of campus life.

#### **Furman University, Greenville, S.C., \$2 million**

Establish a Center for Theological Exploration of Vocation to serve students, faculty and interested laity and clergy in the region. The center will sponsor programs, including a

summer theology institute for pre-college youth, seminars, courses and student-led service projects.

**Goshen College, Goshen, Ind., \$1,999,683**

Support for the school's "Cultivating Authentic Leaders for Life" (CALL) project, which will draw on the Mennonite belief that each person is called to a life of discipleship. Program will include many campus activities, ranging from senior-level courses to internships for preministerial students.

**Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minn., \$1,963,425**

Establish a Center for Vocational Reflection whose aim will be to organize and coordinate a number of programs, such as enhancing its chapel apprenticeship program and creating January-term courses. It also will prepare faculty and staff to act as mentors in leading students through theological reflection on their vocation.

**Hanover College, Hanover, Ind., \$2 million**

Implement project called "Vocational Mentoring: An Approach to Cultivating the Lifelong Habit of Living in Relationship with God." Programs will range from expanding the office of chaplain to redesigning religion courses to sponsoring internships in local churches.

**Loyola University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill., \$1,975,612**

Support a project called EVOKE (Eliciting Vocation through Knowledge and Engagements), a university-wide initiative aimed at enhancing the school's capacity to draw on its Jesuit mission and heritage in developing leaders for church and society. Plans include restructuring academic advising and career counseling.

**Macalester College, St. Paul, Minn., \$1,813,596**

Support for a college-wide project to develop skills of its students to draw on the resources of their religious traditions and to provide ethical and moral leadership in their future work. The project encompasses four components: student programs, programs to connect community service with theological reflections, public events, and a study of the role of the college's faith tradition in its history.

**Manchester College, North Manchester, Ind., \$2 million**

Project that will work with seven other higher education institutions associated with the Church of the Brethren in 14 programs. Efforts will help students discern a possible call to ministry, enhance campus culture based on religious values and traditions, and encourage joint efforts to identify and encourage talented young people to consider the ministry.

**Mercer University, Macon, Ga., \$1,999,880**

Establish “Mercer University Commons,” a project that will create a new organizational structure at the center of the university. The commons will strengthen the school’s connections to its Baptist heritage, identify and support a new generation of religiously committed leaders, provide opportunities to explore the ministry, and help students understand their future work in light of their faith commitments.

**Millsaps College, Jackson, Miss., \$1,107,381**

Support a project called the “Faith and Work Initiative” to provide students with many opportunities for serious and sustained reflection on the relationship between faith and work and, in the process, identify and encourage future clergy and faith-inspired lay leaders.

**St. John’s University, Collegeville, Minn., \$1,999,155**

Support for project called “Theological Exploration of Vocation: Educating for Leadership in Church and Society.” The institution-wide project will integrate seven curricular, cocurricular and community-life programs.

**St. Norbert College, De Pere, Wis., \$1,996,657**

Support for project called “Program of Faith, Learning and Vocation” in order to build up the school’s capacity to prepare future leaders and ministers. The school will initiate a set of curricular and cocurricular activities focused on the theological concept of vocation. Activities will range from redesigning 18 courses to creating worship opportunities in the residence halls.

**Transylvania University, Lexington, Ky., \$1,556,754**

Support for project that will include collaborative programs involving six areas of campus life: academics, career development, chaplain's office, community service, student life and alumni relations. Goal is to create a campus ethos that encourages students to understand their future work in light of their faith commitments, expand and enrich the preministerial program and strengthen partnerships with seminaries and other church-related organizations.

**University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio, \$2 million**

Support for a multifaceted initiative to help students understand their lives in a more theologically informed way and deepen their sense of Christian vocation. Initiative will include an intensive honors-style program, a Christian leadership program, and a university-wide program enabling all students to relate their faith convictions to their decisions about their life's work.

**University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind., \$2 million**

Support for the "Notre Dame Vocation Initiative," a program to foster a theological sense of vocation in a wide range of groups. Initiative includes retreats and workshops for theological reflection on vocation for recent graduates and summer theology institutes for high school youth.

**Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind., \$1,965,150**

Support for project that will introduce all students to the concept of Christian vocation and strengthen opportunities for talented students to explore full-time church vocations. Project will include revising academic courses and enhancing programs at the university's Chapel of the Resurrection.

**Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans, La., \$1,328,189**

Support for project called "Faith and Learning Programs: A Theological Exploration of Vocations." Plans include a summer theology program for precollege students, theological vocational programs targeting undergraduates of all faiths and faculty enrichment programs.