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ICI Announces 2010 Ball Brothers Foundation Venture Fund Winners

INDIANAPOLIS, June 29, 2010 – Four of Indiana’s independent colleges and universities have been selected as the 2010 winners of the Ball Brothers Foundation Venture Fund competitive grant program: DePauw University, Franklin College, Hanover College, and Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College. In all, the four will share \$75,000 in seed funding for campus start-up initiatives aimed at stimulating creativity and innovation and fostering competition and collaboration among the state’s 31 independent campuses.

Established by the Ball Brothers Foundation (Muncie, Indiana) and administered by the Independent Colleges of Indiana, the Ball Brothers Foundation Venture Fund has disbursed more than \$750,000 for 34 innovative initiatives on Indiana’s independent campuses over the past twelve years. The 2010 recipients were chosen from a field of 29 proposals submitted by 20 ICI member colleges and universities:

DePauw University (Greencastle) is directing its \$15,000 award to developing and implementing “Shakespeare in the Schools,” a semester-long program focusing on the work of William Shakespeare for each of Putnam County’s four public high schools.

Franklin College (Franklin) is using its \$20,000 grant to create the “Franklin College Indianapolis News Bureau,” located near the Indiana State House. Through this first-of-its-kind initiative in Indiana, student journalists will cover the General Assembly, as well as other areas of Indiana government and politics.

Hanover College (Hanover) is dedicating its \$25,000 award to “Curbing the Cycle of Poverty with Tools for Learning,” providing local children in the Southwestern School Corporation with needed academic support and Hanover students with a deeper understanding of the challenges facing children in poverty.

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (Saint Mary-of-the-Woods) is using its \$15,000 in seed funds to pilot the “Social Marketing Experiment,” an internship program pairing SMWC distance and campus students in teams to design and implement social marketing strategies for not-for-profit organizations.

The recipients were selected by a panel of judges, including Rich Spisak, Ball Brothers Foundation; Jill Robinson Kramer, Lumina Foundation; Sue Richardson, Nicholas Noyes Jr. Memorial Foundation; and R. Duane Odle, Gibraltar Design.

Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc. (ICI) is a nonprofit corporation that represents the state’s 31 nonprofit, accredited, undergraduate degree-granting institutions of higher education. ICI member institutions enroll more than 85,000 students (approximately 22 percent of all students statewide) and annually produce 35 percent of all bachelor’s degrees in Indiana. For more information: www.icindiana.org.