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White-Williams Scholars Receives \$15,000 Grant from Staples Foundation for Learning

Funds will Support College Connection

Philadelphia, PA (March 13, 2008) – White-Williams Scholars, a non-profit organization that supports academic achievement in Philadelphia public high schools, today announced it has received a \$15,000 grant from Staples Foundation for Learning, Inc. (SFFL), a private foundation created by Staples, Inc. Funding from SFFL will allow White-Williams Scholars to continue College Connection, an after-school college preparation program that helps high achieving, economically disadvantaged students successfully transition from high school to college.

“We want to make certain that high achievement in high school will translate in the college environments our students are preparing for,” said Amy Holdsman, Executive Director of White-Williams Scholars. “The support we are receiving from Staples Foundation for Learning will enable us to continue providing youth with academic enrichment, leadership development skills, and opportunities for civic engagement - all important ingredients for college success.”

“College Connection helps academically motivated, low income high school students successfully transition from high school to college,” said Briana Curran, manager, Staples Foundation for Learning. “Staples Foundation for Learning supports White-Williams Scholars’ efforts to develop underserved youths’ confidence in their abilities to attend college and achieve success in life.”

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College Connection works with students throughout their four years of high school to develop their academic skills, particularly in math and English, with the assistance of online testing software to help prepare students for college-level coursework. In addition, youth receive SAT tutoring, leadership development training and the opportunity to participate in workshops on time management, financial aid and the college application process. The program is held after school once a week and includes a mandatory summer component.

About the White-Williams Scholars

The mission of White-Williams Scholars is to support high academic achievement in Philadelphia public high school students of limited financial resources. The organization's Stipend Program provides \$50 to \$75 per month to students who maintain A's and B's in their classes to assist them with basic needs. The Scholar Services Program provides regular workshops on a number of important subjects such as writing skills, college scholarship information, and financial aid. The organization's newest program, College Connection, is an intensive four-year program offered to ninth grade Scholars interested in making a commitment to their college pursuits. Students meet weekly and take part in a variety of enrichment activities including college and career guidance, leadership development, and teambuilding opportunities. A recent survey showed that more than 96% of White-Williams Scholars go on to college.

About Staples Foundation for Learning

The mission of Staples Foundation for Learning, Inc. is to teach, train and inspire. Founded in 2002, the foundation has contributed nearly \$12 million to national and local charities that provide educational opportunities and job skills for all people, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged youth. Staples Foundation for Learning has also developed lasting relationships with Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Earth Force, Hispanic Heritage Foundation and the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City. In addition, Staples Foundation for Learning supports Ashoka, an organization that develops and supports social entrepreneurs around the world, in eight countries: Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Spain and the United States. For more information about the foundation or how to apply for a grant, please visit www.staplesfoundation.org.

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