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Olivet College receives grant from W.K. Kellogg Foundation to provide diversity training workshop

OLIVET, Mich.— Olivet College has received a \$150,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, which will enable the college to partner with the National Resource Center for the Healing of Racism (NRCHR) to provide diversity training workshops for Olivet’s first-year students. All incoming students will be required to attend a two-day NRCHR workshop and participate in the follow-up discussions. Each workshop will include 25 students and two facilitators.

“Since the NRCHR ultimately focuses on the ‘oneness of humankind’ and Olivet College focuses on celebrating ‘both the wealth of human diversity and the bond of human similarity,’ a great amount of positive change can be developed,” said Olivet College President Don Tuski, Ph.D. “Our goal with this project is to create an even more open and honest campus culture based on trust and understanding of race. This will lead to the development of the oneness of humankind as the NRCHR suggests.”

As part of the grant, some students and college employees will be trained to become facilitators for Olivet as well as other colleges. During the workshop, facilitators will lead discussions where participants can share honest feelings and experiences about racism. The facilitators will also provide information about the oneness of humankind and truths about our culture.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation was established in 1930 “to help people help themselves through the practical application of knowledge and resources to improve their quality of life and that of future generations.” To achieve the greatest impact, the Foundation targets its grants toward specific areas. These include: health; food systems and rural development; youth and education; and philanthropy and volunteerism. Within these areas, attention is given to exploring learning opportunities in leadership; information and communication technology; capitalizing on diversity; and social and economic community development.

Grants are concentrated in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the southern African countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

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For further information, please visit the Foundation's Web site at www.wkkf.org. The site offers: in-depth information about the Foundation's programming interests; information on the Foundation's grant application process; a database of current grant recipients; and access to publications which report on Foundation-funded projects.

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Established in 1844, Olivet College is a private, liberal arts institution located in south central Michigan. The college remains dedicated to its vision of *Education for Individual and Social Responsibility* by providing a quality higher education to all, regardless of gender, race or financial means. The college is home to more than 1,000 students, who study under *The Olivet Plan*. In this unique educational experience, students engage in both curricular and co-curricular programs that combine real world experiences with lectures and service learning.