

*Community Foundation of Wabash County*  
*The County Council of Wabash County*

Whereas, Wabash County is one of five Indiana counties which lost population during the past decade;

Whereas, a strong future for our community lies in building an educated workforce fully prepared for high tech/high wage jobs

Whereas, Wabash County is a community that places a high value on the role of parents as the best first teachers of this community's future citizens;

Whereas, Wabash County will benefit directly from programs that assist parents in gaining information that they can use to raise their children -- who will grow up to become our town's future citizens;

And whereas, we the County Council believe the programs outlined to us tonight by the CAPE of Wabash County team offer a systematic approach to improving our community's prospects for higher educational attainment

We hereby resolve to support the programs and projects of the Community Alliance to Promote Education in Wabash County being submitted September 15, 2000 to the Lilly Endowment by the Community Foundation of Wabash County by:

- encouraging participation by all Wabash County residents
- seeking funding for proposals that fall within the scope of our county's government's roles and responsibilities
- working with the Community Foundation of Wabash County to seek sustaining funding for programs that demonstrate success in meeting goals that are consistent with the needs of Wabash County.

County Council Member Signatures 9-11-00

Robert Whitesel

Paul R. Suter

Guy Schenk

Andy A. Jones

Jed A. Little

David Hill

Leon Ridenour

**What did Lilly ask us to do?**

- ◇ **Assess and prioritize the county's most compelling educational needs**
- ◇ **Develop innovative, strategic collaborative, community-based education programs to enhance the level of educational attainment and quality of life in Wabash County.**
- ◇ **Essential required elements**
  - *Proposals for programs that have substantial support from sources in addition to Lilly Endowment generally will be favored.*
  - *Include statements from community representatives that demonstrate the willingness and disposition of your community to implement and sustain the proposed program.*

***What are the county's most compelling needs?***

- ◆ **Parental involvement in their children's learning is a better predictor of academic achievement than socioeconomic status or parents' educational level.**
  - ◇ There is a need greater parent involvement in the development and education of children.
- ◆ **A significant number of Wabash County's youngest children receive the majority of their care from providers other than a parent.**
  - ◇ There is a need for training to enhance the skills of individuals providing care for children in homes, day care centers, registered ministries, and preschools.
- ◆ **Approximately one of eight (12%) Wabash county Adults aged sixteen and over functions at Literacy Level 1.**
  - ◇ There is a need for both family and individual literacy initiatives.
- ◆ **Student Learning and educational achievement is directly linked to the quality of teaching that occurs in the classroom.**
  - ◇ There is a need for professional development opportunities that stimulate teachers and give them new resources to improve student achievement
- ◆ **Business and education partnerships enhance academic achievement and educational attainment**
  - ◇ There is a need to create and sustain public awareness and investment in the value of education. There is a need to make education responsive to work force needs, and global economic trends.
- ◆ **Roughly 6,000 (17%) Wabash County residents 25 years and older have less education than a high school diploma, Wabash County's drop out rate is 4%.**
  - ◇ There is a need to create alternative educational opportunities to raise the level of educational attainment for these adults, 25 years and older.
- ◆ **Only 11.7% of Wabash county residents 25 years and older hold a bachelor, graduate or professional degree compared to 20.3 % nationally.**
  - ◇ There is a need to promote the value of education, and to provide resources and information regarding the importance and availability of post-secondary education to Wabash County parents and students at key decision making times through the school years.