

Toyota USA Foundation Awards \$500,000 To Western Kentucky University

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Grant Will Support Math and Technology Leadership Academy

May 7, 2010 – Bowling Green, KY – Western Kentucky University (WKU) has been named the recipient of a \$500,000 grant from the Toyota USA Foundation. Awarded over three years, the grant will help fund WKU's Math and Technology Leadership Academy (MTLA) which aims to increase K-5 student interest and achievement in math and technology among high risk youth in the Bowling Green Enterprise Community, as well as other areas of Warren County, Kentucky.

WKU will develop the MTLA by providing intense math and technology professional development to educators, in order to strengthen their own skills, develop a national model for teacher preparedness and in turn, increase student achievement in these areas. Professors from WKU's Ogden College of Science and Engineering, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, and Gifted Studies will partner with representatives from Bowling Green Independent Schools, Warren County Public Schools and the Housing Authority of Bowling Green to develop unique, challenging experiences for the MTLA teachers and the students they serve. In addition, the MTLA will aim to increase the number of diverse students qualifying for advanced math opportunities while encouraging family involvement through Math and Technology Community School events.

"We're very grateful for the generosity of the Toyota USA Foundation," said Rick Dubose, WKU's director of corporate and foundation relations. "Thanks to their support, WKU and its partners can move ahead in their efforts to make MTLA a reality. By increasing the effectiveness of teacher leaders, we believe we can better engage young students and introduce them to new opportunities in math and technology. At the outset, a total of 18 schools and nearly 9,000 students stand to benefit. But over the long term, we believe the positive impact for families and communities will be far greater."

"We're proud to support WKU's Math and Technology Leadership Academy and strongly believe in its mission to engage and increase achievement among young students in high-risk, diverse communities by developing teachers' skills and experiences," said Jim Wiseman, group vice president of corporate communications and chief communications officer Toyota Motor North America. "We are highly confident that the University's partnership with area educators, school districts and the Housing Authority of Bowling Green will yield great results not just in Western Kentucky, but ultimately in communities across the country."

About the Toyota USA Foundation

The Toyota USA Foundation is a \$100 million charitable endowment created to support education programs serving kindergarten through 12th grade students and their teachers in the United States, with an emphasis on mathematics, science and environmental science. For additional information about the Toyota USA Foundation, visit www.toyota.com/foundation.