

August 16, 2007

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL 6 P.M., 8/16/07:

The Foundation of Monroe County Community Schools Kicks off Campaign to Support Initial Funding of Bloomington New Tech High School

(Bloomington, Indiana) The Foundation of Monroe County Community Schools (FMCCS) kicks off a campaign today to raise \$400,000 to support the initial implementation costs for Bloomington New Tech High School. Donations will be sought to help fund one time costs to purchase lifetime licenses for the New Technology Learning System, for training of the New Tech teachers and principal, and for the initial complement of computers needed over the first four years of the school's operation.

Investments in the learning system will provide the New Tech faculty with school and classroom management tools, curriculum resources, assessment tools, implementation tools and technology support resources. Funding for training will provide the staff with professional development, coaching, and support from the experts at the New Technology Foundation during the training and initial implementation years.

The dollars raised by FMCCS will complement those already committed for start up costs by the MCCSC, the National Governor's Association and other state granting agencies totaling \$300,000. Donations will not be used to fund ongoing costs to operate the school but rather to seed initial set up expenses. The school corporation has developed a budget that will allow them to sustain New Technology High School after implementation using the per pupil funding normally allocated to educate each young person in our school corporation.

As part of its commitment to providing resources to improve and enhance the educational development of all MCCSC students, the Foundation will be working with local individuals, businesses and organizations to provide Bloomington New Tech High School with the resources to successfully open a new school. Donations can be made to the Foundation of Monroe County Community Schools at 315 North Drive, Bloomington, Indiana, 47401. For

more information contact Executive Director, Tina Peterson at 812.330.7700.

In addition to financial support, the school will rely upon the community to help establish internships for students, to fulfill a community service component of the curriculum, and to provide opportunities for students to achieve at least 12 hours of college credit during their junior and senior years at New Tech.

The MCCSC School Board voted to adopt New Technology High School in May of this year and hired a principal for the school in June. This action by the school board resulted from a multi-year effort within the school corporation to evaluate MCCSC's secondary education system. A broad-based group of educators, parents, community leaders and business representatives (the MCCSC Graduation Work Group) reviewed the current status of our high schools and explored various options for structuring high schools to best serve students.

Implementation of New Technology High School represents the first formal step towards realizing a vision for schools that offers students more options for achieving a relevant, rigorous and personalized educational experience. New Tech is not meant to replace or compete with the other high school programs available in Bloomington but rather to offer another option to students that would prefer a smaller learning environment, those who would thrive in a more engaging environment, or students who learn best through a project based approach to instruction.

Bloomington's New Technology High School will be modeled after the Napa New Technology High School which was established in 1976 and has been replicated in more than 35 sites around the United States. At least six New Technology High Schools will be open in the State of Indiana by the Fall of 2008 as part of a state initiative to encourage local communities to redefine education to better prepare our state for success in the 21st Century.

As the first principal of New Tech High School, Alan Veach will be charged with tailoring the Bloomington New Tech High School to meet the needs of our local students and community. Emphasis will be placed upon providing students with the 21st century skills required for success in an ever-changing local and global economy.

Bloomington New Technology High School will open its doors to students in August of 2008 and will initially serve 100 freshmen. Each year for the following three years, the school will add a grade until it reaches a full complement of 400 students in grades 9 through 12. It is expected that the population of the school will not exceed 400 students, thereby allowing it to remain true to the tenets of a small learning community. Any MCCSC 8th grader will be allowed to apply to New Tech and participants will be chosen by lottery each February.

The Foundation of Monroe County Community Schools is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving and enhancing the educational development of all 11,000 students in the Monroe County Community School Corporation. The Foundation provides funding for 21 programs throughout the school corporation including five grant programs for teachers, a science initiative, community conversations about the future of public education, vision screening and more. All programs of the Foundation are made possible by generous donations and grants from our local community. During the 2007-2008 school year cumulative program funding by the Foundation will exceed \$1,000,000.

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