

August 16, 2007

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

**Cook Group Incorporated Awards \$150,000 in Matching Grant Dollars to Support School Innovation and Transformation Efforts in MCCSC; Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County Leads Matching Effort with a Grant of \$35,000 for Bloomington New Technology High School**

(Bloomington, Indiana) Cook Group Incorporated will make a \$150,000 grant to the Foundation of Monroe County Community Schools to enable implementation of innovative, transformational school redesign efforts within the Monroe County Community School Corporation. A majority of these grant funds will be used to fund start up costs for a New Technology High School which will open in the Fall of 2008. A portion of the funds will be dedicated to supporting other transformational efforts that are in various stages of implementation within the school corporation.

Recognizing the necessity to create strong community partnerships to support successful innovation in our local schools, Cook has established this grant opportunity as a matching fund initiative. In a separate press release from Cook Group Incorporated on this same date, President Kem Hawkins states that “the key to making this a success is generating additional community support and working closely with MCCSC leadership to promote positive change within the school corporation.” By offering the grant in the form of a challenge program, Cook Group encourages other community organizations, individuals and businesses to make similar financial commitments.

The Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County supports school transformation as well and recently committed \$35,000 in start up funding for the Bloomington New Tech High School. “Our Board of Directors believes that the transformation of our public schools to serve 21<sup>st</sup> century needs is an important community priority with long-term ramifications. Supporting the first new educational model to be implemented in Monroe County is a natural for the Community Foundation,” states Angela Parker, Board Chair. She continues, “We are delighted to learn of the Cook Group’s challenge grant and to become the

lead donor in this matching program. Seed funding from the Community Foundation, along with contributions from others in the community, will help create an innovative learning environment to best serve our children and our community.”

Both donors strongly support the core tenets of the New Technology High School model. They include an emphasis on relevancy, rigor and relationships. Through project-based learning in a small, engaging environment, students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own educational attainment. The curriculum is designed to allow students the opportunity to develop the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills so closely aligned with changing requirements for success in post-secondary educational settings and in the work place. While any 8<sup>th</sup> grade student will have the opportunity to apply to New Technology High School, it is expected that the school will have particular appeal to those students who are seeking more engagement, a smaller learning environment, and a different approach to learning and instruction.

Grants from Cook Group Incorporated and the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County are the lead gifts in a \$400,000 fundraising campaign for New Tech announced today by the Foundation of Monroe County Community Schools. These gifts and others raised will be used to support initial implementation costs for the school. For more details, please see a press release dated August 16, 2007 entitled “The Foundation of Monroe County Community Schools Kicks off Campaign to Support Initial Funding of Bloomington’s New Tech High School.”

Both Cook Group Incorporated and the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County have a long history of funding initiatives that support the long term health and vitality of the Bloomington Community. Most recently, Cook supported the establishment of the Volunteers in Medicine Clinic and they continue to support P-16 initiatives in schools throughout the region. The Community Foundation supports the work of many not-for-profits in the community and has developed several special initiatives in the areas of education and youth. For multiple years, they have supported the work of the Community Alliance to Promote Education (CAPE) and recently announced an initiative to benefit young people in the middle school age group.

Cook Group Incorporated is the world's largest privately held medical device manufacturer with international headquarters in Bloomington, Ind., COOK® (www.cookgroup.com) is a leading designer, manufacturer and global distributor of minimally invasive medical device technology for diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. Cook Group also owns and operates real estate, retail management and travel services businesses. Through its real estate development and management company, CFC, Inc., the Cook Group family of companies has placed a special emphasis on preserving architecturally significant buildings in Bloomington and south central Indiana. Cook Group won the prestigious Medical Device Manufacturer of the Year Award for 2006 from *Medical Device & Diagnostic Industry* magazine.

Since 1990, the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County has served as the local champion for enduring and effective philanthropy that enhances the local quality of life. They accomplish their mission by partnering with donors to build and steward permanent endowments; addressing community needs through grants; and providing inclusive community leadership on issues of local importance. They manage over \$22 million dollars in assets and returned \$621,000 to the community in grants during 2006. Recently the organization has been exploring options for increasing high-impact funding and enhancing the effect of their grants and community building initiatives.

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, the FMCCS 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 the local community. During the 2007-2008 School Year cumulative program funding by the Foundation will exceed \$1,000,000.

The Monroe County Community School Corporation established the Bloomington New Technology High School and hired its first principal in 2007. The school will open in August of 2008 to 100 incoming freshman. For each of the next three years, the school will add 100 students per year until a full complement of 400 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students is enrolled. It

is anticipated the enrollment of the school will be capped at 400 students in order to fully implement the core tenets of a small learning community. Principal Alan Veach is working with others throughout the community to establish a learning environment that will best meet the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century student and contribute to the long term economic and civic success of the community.

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