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The Whitaker Foundation Makes Final Gifts to Whitaker Center, TFEC



Harrisburg, PA, July 31, 2013 – Today marks the bittersweet end of an era of giving by The Whitaker Foundation. The Whitaker Foundation’s reserve account, of approximately \$3.9 million, will be dispersed to Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts and The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC). The Whitaker Center will receive approximately \$2.6 million and TFEC will receive approximately \$1.3 million.

In 1975, The Whitaker Foundation was established from a portion of Uncas A. Whitaker’s estate for philanthropy predominately in the field of biomedical engineering. Additionally, The Whitaker Foundation supported charitable programs over the years in Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties as well the Naples, Florida area. The last gift from his foundation will ensure that nonprofits working in the central PA region will continue to work towards his original intention to improve people’s lives.

TFEC plans to use this final gift to provide grants to local nonprofits that are working to solve the immediate needs in the central PA counties of Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lebanon, Perry and northern York.

Janice Black, President and CEO of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities stated, “Though The Whitaker Foundation closed its doors in 2006, its legacy endures because the Governing Committee carefully orchestrated the support of The Whitaker Foundation over the years of its existence to effect positive change for all people through their gifts in the field of biomedical engineering that strengthened major research universities and also facilitated new approaches in the field of biomedical research overall. The Foundation for Enhancing Communities has been honored to be able to assist The Whitaker Foundation over the years in its quest to support local nonprofits in the field of math and science and self- sufficiency. Our community is stronger for their support.”

“The community is the beneficiary of the strong partnership between TFEC and Whitaker Center; a partnership further fueled by The Whitaker Foundation’s final gifts,” said Gary D. St. Hilaire, chair, Whitaker Center board of directors and president and CEO of Capital Blue Cross. “Uncas Whitaker was a pioneer as was his foundation in the creation of Whitaker Center. Once again his foundation is

providing a gift that will serve as the springboard of the 15 year anniversary fundraising campaign. It is my hope the spirit of philanthropy displayed by Uncas Whitaker and The Whitaker Foundation will inspire others to support the mission of Whitaker Center far into the future.”

Since 1999, central Pennsylvania has come to know Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts is a place to discover it all. As part of the celebration of the 15 year anniversary, Whitaker Center is launching a comprehensive public information campaign that will connect the community with the Whitaker Center story while raising resources to ensure sustainability for the future. Ensuring the long-term vitality of Whitaker Center solidifies the legacy of Uncas and Helen Whitaker for future generations.

It is because of the generosity of The Whitaker Foundation and the Helen F. Whitaker Foundation, whose focus was supporting the arts that Whitaker Center was the first facility in the nation to be constructed to present experiences in the arts as well as the sciences. It is this unique pairing that has attracted 4 million visitors to the streets of our Capital city and contributed \$280 million in economic impact to the region.

In 1991, The Whitaker Foundation elected to spend both income and principal over a 15-year period to enable The Whitaker Foundation to achieve its mission of the rapid expansion of undergraduate and graduate biomedical engineering departments and programs at major research universities within the United States and Canada. This decision was influenced by a statement included within the trust instrument that created The Whitaker Foundation in which Mr. Whitaker desired “that the entire principal and income of this trust be completely distributed within 40 years following his death.” Therefore on June 30, 2006, The Whitaker Foundation completed its mission and closed its doors after 30 years of grant-making.

“The legacy of any foundation is what it achieves, not the length of its lifetime or the wealth it accumulates,” Miles J. Gibbons, Jr., former president of The Whitaker Foundation.” Gibbons is an emeritus member of the Whitaker Center board of directors.

Upon termination of The Whitaker Foundation, a reserve account was to be created at TFEC for payment of any valid claims and liabilities that were unresolved before, or might arise after the terminate date of June 30, 2006. After seven years from the termination date, two-thirds of the reserve account is to be distributed to Whitaker Center and one-third to TFEC.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION FOR ENHANCING COMMUNITIES

The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) is a community foundation which aims to stimulate philanthropy and enhance the quality of life in the community through accumulating, managing, and disbursing financial assets while serving as a catalyst and neutral convener to meet a wide range of community needs in the south central Pennsylvania counties of Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lebanon, and Perry, and also in the Dillsburg area. Regional foundations of TFEC include the Greater Harrisburg Foundation, the Franklin County Foundation, the Mechanicsburg Area Foundation, the Perry County Community Foundation, the Camp Hill Community Foundation, and the Dillsburg Area Foundation. For more information on TFEC, please visit www.tfec.org.

ABOUT WHITAKER CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND THE ARTS

Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts is the mid-state's premier center for arts, education, entertainment and cultural enrichment. Whitaker Center is composed of three main venues — Sunoco Performance Theater, Select Medical IMAX® Theater, and Harsco Science Center. The mission of Whitaker Center is to serve as the center for scientific, artistic, cultural and educational activities to enhance the region's quality of life and economic vitality. For more information on Whitaker Center, please visit www.whitakercenter.org.

ABOUT THE WHITAKER FOUNDATION

The Whitaker Foundation played a major role in establishing biomedical engineering as a contemporary academic field and granted more than \$800 million to help achieve its mission. The Foundation made its first research grant in 1976 of \$60,000 to William Pierce, M.D., of Penn State University. By 1994, it was the 61st largest foundation in the United States, with assets valued at \$340 million and annual grant expenditures of \$30 million.

The Whitaker Foundation supported the creation of 30 new departments of biomedical engineering at colleges and universities across the United States. The Foundation also supported the construction of 13 buildings to house classrooms and laboratories. Nearly 1,500 young researchers began their careers with funding from The Foundation. The Foundation supported academic research, education programs, curriculum development, fellowships, internships, textbooks, conferences, meetings, leadership development, faculty hiring, classroom and laboratory construction and renovation, building construction, industrial collaborations, government collaborations, professional societies and international fellowships and scholarships.

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