



## Office of Diversity & Inclusion

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio State's Young Scholars Program Partners with American Honda Foundation to Deploy Innovative Pre-collegiate Math Instruction for Urban Students.

Columbus, OH--With the goal of increasing college readiness among low-income children who aspire to become first generation college students, the Young Scholars Program (YSP) at The Ohio State University has received a \$60,000 grant from the American Honda Foundation to build mathematical capacity among eighth-grade students across the state of Ohio. Beginning in Winter Quarter of 2012, this initiative will build upon a YSP-sponsored pilot project that has been underway since 2008. In addition to providing support for teachers, the grant will also pay for instructional materials, digital exploration tools, computer software, and a week-long summer math immersion program.

The grant will enable the Young Scholars Program to implement a mathematics enrichment program at sites across the state using virtual communities. The project will expand a proven enrichment program designed by Dr. Azita Manouchehri, professor in Ohio State's School of Teaching and Learning, and piloted by YSP among students in the Columbus area. Using hands-on activities and graphing utilities to explore mathematical ideas, the program employs inquiry-based teaching techniques that engage students conceptually. The grant will support implementation of the program in Columbus and eight other urban sites via videoconferencing and other technologies.

Dr. Curtis Austin, Director of the Young Scholars Program, noted that the unit is grateful for the American Honda Foundation's support because "it helps to create an environment that encourages rigorous learning that will have long-term societal implications for the state of Ohio." Austin adds that "because math is so important to success in today's competitive global markets, Honda's generous support of the

project is not only timely, but also critical in the area of student preparation, particularly among our YSP students.” In effect, the grant will enable instructors to create a model for improving mathematical thinking, increasing interest and motivation towards mathematical learning, and measuring the self-efficacy of children through the use of technology and sustained inquiry-based instruction.

“Through grant giving, the American Honda Foundation seeks to develop youth in the areas of math, science, engineering, technology and literacy,” said Alexandra Warnier, manager at American Honda Foundation. “We are proud to partner with the Young Scholars Program on its important contribution in this area and look forward to the impact and results that will be achieved.”

“The Young Scholars Program provides critical access for students from underrepresented groups in targeted urban areas, as well as students from the 32 Ohio Appalachian counties,” says Dr. Valerie B. Lee, Chief Diversity Officer and Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion. “Indeed, the YSP pipeline accounts for more than one fourth of all African American students admitted to Ohio State from YSP’s targeted urban school districts as well as a quarter of the Latino students admitted from these districts. Through this partnership with the Honda Foundation, we will empower gifted youth to fully develop their talents and become innovative problem solvers and leaders.”

Since its inception in 1988, The Ohio State University’s Young Scholars Program has prepared 3,000 of Ohio’s youth for college success. The Young Scholars program is an important gateway to higher education for underserved youth in nine of the state’s largest urban school districts. Starting in middle school, participants engage in workshops focused on academic enrichment, personal development and career exploration to prepare them for college success. To date, the Young Scholars Program has guided some of the state’s most vulnerable students through middle, high school and college, resulting in students receiving post baccalaureate degrees in education, science, medicine, and engineering. In addition to having become surgeons and architects, a number of YSP participants have received both Fulbright and Gates Millennium Scholarships and some have gone on to become professional athletes, politicians, and business owners. The American Honda Foundation’s support will enable the program to continue this proud tradition. For more information, please visit [www.odi.osu.edu](http://www.odi.osu.edu).

Established in 1984, the American Honda Foundation (AHF) makes grants to non-profit organizations that benefit the people of the United States in the areas of youth and scientific education, with a specific focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects in addition to the environment. AHF engages in grantmaking that reflects the basic tenets, beliefs and philosophies of Honda companies, which are characterized by the following qualities: imaginative,

creative, youthful, forward-thinking, scientific, humanistic and innovative. Since its inception, more than \$27 million has been awarded to organizations serving approximately 115 million people in virtually every state in the U.S. For more information please visit <http://www.foundation.honda.com>

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