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NCCI Leveraging Excellence Award Winners Selected

January 28, 2008 - Innovative projects from the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) and Brigham Young University won the 2008 Leveraging Excellence Award of the National Consortium for Continuous Improvement in Higher Education (NCCI).

“While many award programs recognize innovation and improvement, this award recognizes cases when those improvements have been actively leveraged for greater impact,” said Roderick Wallick, NCCI president and vice president for finance and operations at Wheaton College in Massachusetts.

The Committee on Institutional Cooperation, a consortium of Big Ten universities and the University of Chicago, won for its strategic collaboration, which saved the institutions millions while also streamlining processes. The collaboration includes: a coordinated purchasing process that saved \$16 million, a shared fiber network that provides a faster network and \$13 million in savings, a plan to share over 100 study abroad and course development efforts, and a leadership development program for over 900 faculty leaders.

Brigham Young University won for its Capital Needs Analysis project, a program for managing capital assets in an integrated way. Originating at the Provo, Utah campus, this project started as an innovative approach to managing capital assets, resulting in significant savings. This process was adopted by other BYU campuses and by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints facilities division worldwide. Its robust design is now being introduced at a number of other educational institutions and government entities.

Four honorable mention designations were made to:

- “Leveraging Research through International Networks” - Worldwide Universities Network
- “Five College Joint Appointments” - Five Colleges, Inc.
- “Academic Audit” - Tennessee Board of Regents
- “Building a Culture of Evidence to Improve Learning” - Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

“This award honors institutions and organizations that have created innovative planning and decision-making processes, and have leveraged their best practices

in order to help other colleges, universities and institutions become more efficient and improve their operational excellence,” said University of Kentucky President Lee T. Todd, Jr., chair of the judging panel. “But this award also recognizes a new trend in higher education. It acknowledges higher education efforts that resonate with business leaders, legislators and donors. Such relationships play an increasingly significant role in higher education today, as colleges and universities strive to build collaborative partnerships that add value to the various publics in which they serve.”

NCCI represents a wide range of member institutions, with many individuals working in organizational development, quality assessment, planning, and institutional improvement. Its programs promote sharing best practices and supporting professional development of individual members. NCCI’s Leveraging Excellence Award Program is sponsored by the Follett Higher Education Group.

“The applications reflected the innovative and efficient uses of resources being developed by the higher education community and demonstrated the contributions our colleges and universities are making to enhance the educational enterprise,” said Benjamin Quillian, Senior Vice President of Business and Operations at the American Council on Education and one of the judges. In addition to Quillian and Todd, final judges included William (Brit) Kirwan - Chancellor of the University System of Maryland, Susan Jurow – Senior Vice President of NACUBO, and Mo Qayoumi – President of Cal State East Bay.

Winners will be recognized at the NCCI co-sponsored pre-conference at the Annual Meeting of the American Council on Education on February 10, 2008 in San Diego. In addition, winners will be invited to present their accomplishments as featured speakers at NCCI’s Annual Conference, which will be held in Chicago in July 2008.

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Award ceremony will be on February 10, 2008, 8:00-9:30, in the Manchester Grand Hyatt, San Diego, Room: Emma AB

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For more information on NCCI and the Leveraging Excellence Award Program and winners:
www.ncci-cu.org

Photos available. Contact Cotter, above.