

For Immediate Release  
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**Nine National Library Power Program planning grants awarded**

Nine National Library Power Program planning grants have been awarded to local education funds by the DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund as part of a \$45 million fund initiative designed to make public elementary and middle school libraries central to the educational programs of schools.

Local education funds receiving planning grants of up to \$20,000 each are: the Chattanooga (Tenn.)-Hamilton County Public Education Foundation; the Dade Public Education Fund, Miami Springs, Fla.; the Lincoln (Neb.) Public Schools Foundation; the Metropolitan Nashville (Tenn.) Public Education Foundation; PATHS/PRISM: The Philadelphia (Pa.) Partnership for Education; the Public Education Coalition, Denver; the Wake Education Partnership, Raleigh, N.C., and the Washington (D.C.) Parent Group Fund.

Planning grant recipients are eligible for three-year implementation grants of up to \$1.2 million pending successful completion of a comprehensive community-supported plan.

Implementation grants, to be awarded beginning with the 1993-94 school year, are to be used for staff development, to match city and state funds for school library materials, to physically refurbish school library media centers and to hire Library Power project staff who will be based at the local education fund. Grants do not support personnel costs of school librarians.

**Nine National Library Power Program planning grants awarded -- add one**

The National Library Power Program is a collaborative effort of the DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, local education funds and public school districts. Local education funds use their grants to develop an implementation plan for making school library media centers a focal point for educational activities in their elementary and/or middle schools.

The DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund started the National Library Power Program in 1988 in New York City schools. In the first three years of the program, school library media centers were renovated and improved in more than 100 of the city's schools. By the end of 1992, the Fund had expanded the program to seven additional communities throughout the country. In addition to New York, current sites include: Providence, R.I.; Cambridge and Lynn, Mass.; Rochester, N.Y.; Tucson, Ariz.; Paterson, N.J., and East Baton Rouge, La. The Fund is committed to extending the National Library Power Program to up to 25 sites by 1996.

National Library Power Program sites receive technical assistance from the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), and the Public Education Fund Network. AASL is also providing administrative support for the program.

The DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund supports programs that help American youth fulfill their educational and career aspirations. It invests nationwide to improve schools, encourage school and community collaboration, strengthen organizations that serve youth and support programs that increase career, service and education opportunities for young people. In 1992, approved grants exceeded \$96 million.

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