



LA LUMIERE SCHOOL

Character • Scholarship • Faith

P.O. Box 5005 • LA PORTE • INDIANA 46352-5005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

La Lumiere School's Environmental Science Program Awarded Dr. Scholl Foundation Grant

November 15, 2011 La Porte, IN –Students studying the new environmental science curriculum at La Lumiere School will soon benefit from enhanced programming and lab equipment to complement the expansive natural campus setting. La Lumiere School is thrilled to announce it was awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Chicago-based Dr. Scholl Foundation to equip the Environmental Sciences program with four-year curriculum wide resources. These resources will serve the educators well in fully-integrating the Environmental-based technology for group presentation, modeling, and real-time data collection as it relates to real world experiments and examples.

As the school's first academic *Area of Excellence*, La Lumiere has made a name for itself in the region for our focus on the Sciences and our success as a State finalist in Science Olympiad for the past 19 years and as the State Champion for Academic Decathlon this year. A 7,200 sq. ft. Science Center was constructed in 2009 and is now in full-use. The proceeds from this grant will be leveraged with \$35,000 raised from alumni and current parents at an event in fall 2011.

Currently La Lumiere School is experiencing record enrollment and academic success. After 7 years of continuous growth, enrollment has reached 200. Surrounded by a natural, spring-fed lake and acres of wooded trails, La Lumiere offers a unique opportunity to take advantage of our campus as an outdoor laboratory. The Environmental Sciences program is inspiring our students to environmental stewardship through academics and engagement with the campus including our lake, wildlife and wooded acres. Students who feel a strong attachment to the natural world are more motivated to conserve it.

To this end, La Lumiere is instituting an Environmental Education Program beginning with the implementation of an Environmental Science curriculum. Science courses include: Biology: A Systems Approach; Marine Biology; GIS Geography; Chemistry and the Environment; Environmental Stewardship; Environmental Literature and AP Environmental Science.

The Environmental Studies program at La Lumiere School has garnered a great deal of interest and has allowed the School to form partnerships with the National Parks, the Soil and Water Conservation District and other environmental organizations in the area. The program provides training for students not only in the environmental sciences, but examines the concepts of environmental stewardship and environmental ethics in an academic setting. An active community service component is being developed where La Lumiere students will be able to assist in monitoring of water quality in the Galena Watershed.

Kevin Spingler, Director of the Environmental Sciences program stated, “It is gratifying that the Dr. Scholl Foundation recognizes the significance of introducing students to an intensive, interdisciplinary study program of the environment and has decided to invest seed money to provide the necessary equipment for students to conduct research quality work in the environmental sciences. La Lumiere is grateful for this interest and looks forward to building upon the strong foundation provided by the Dr. Scholl Foundation.”

About La Lumiere School

La Lumiere School is a co-educational, independent boarding and day secondary school providing a college-preparatory education based in character, scholarship and faith. Our rigorous education, personal relationships, and focus on values create a rich learning environment for students. They are known by faculty, staff and other students from all grades. This familiarity enables our students to make lasting connections, engage in academics, participate socially and define their path. Founded in the Catholic tradition in 1963, the student body consists of over 200 students from a rich diversity of backgrounds. It is situated on a beautiful rural estate, 25 miles west of South Bend, 60 miles east of Chicago, and 8 miles from both La Porte and New Buffalo. La Lumiere School is accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) and the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA).

More information about La Lumiere School can be found at www.lalumiere.org

Contact: Susan Sullivan Yemc
Development Associate
219-326-7450. ext. 218
syemc@lalumiere.org