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Dunham Fund Awards Grant to Quad County Urban League

AURORA, ILLINOIS — Quad County Urban League President and CEO, Theodia Gillespie, announced that the Dunham Fund has awarded the League \$1 million dollars, over a three year period, in support of the agency's 23,000 square foot Vocational and Educational Training Center expansion project. The Dunham Fund is named after Aurora business executive and former Equipto CEO, John Dunham, who worked tirelessly and contributed generously in order to better his local community.

"Since our inception, much advancement has been made to encourage and realize the economic dreams of our constituents. However, the need to close the economic gap still exists," said Gillespie. "African Americans and other similarly disadvantaged populations are still largely underrepresented in the economic mainstream. With the support of the Dunham Fund, we will be able to offer expanded services and programs that will help close this gap."

"The Dunham Fund is pleased to work with the Quad County Urban League because of their work in helping people improve their lives by giving them the tools they need to get good jobs," said Dunham Fund Board Chair, William Skoglund. "John Dunham believed in hard work and helping people to help themselves through education, training and other opportunities whereby people could improve their lives. The Urban League's programs and mission emphasizes this philosophy."

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Dunham Fund

Page 2 of 2

The Vocational and Educational Training Center, the first of its kind in Kane, Kendall, DuPage and Will Counties, has a primary goal of helping individuals and families improve their lives by achieving economic self-reliance. It will house the Aurora Middle School Academy, all existing social services programs, and extended services for vocational training to meet the needs of the local economy — including a focus on the trades and corporate market demand in the metro-Aurora area.

The Center, which is scheduled to open in Fall 2007, is supported by private and corporate contributions and philanthropic foundations.

For more information or to make a donation to the building fund, contact the Quad County Urban League's President, Theodia Gillespie, at (630) 851-2203. To find out more about the Dunham Fund, contact Hilary Brennan, grant administrator of the foundation, at (630) 896-7800.

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