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TORCH OF WISDOM FOUNDATION AWARDED EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS GRANT

The Torch of Wisdom Foundation, Inc., a 501c3 public charity since 1993, is pleased to announce that it received a \$15,000 grant from the Phillip and Elizabeth Filmer Memorial Trust. The grant further advances the foundation's mission of improving lives through scholarship, cultural arts, and community enrichment.

The foundation is seeking participants for a pilot employability and life skills development program for existing students, ages 17 to 19, who live in Oakland County. According to labor statistics, in 13 years, the youth unemployment rate spiked from 9.6 percent to 26.4 percent today and the high school dropout rate is eight percent. The eight-week program, called "The Learning Network, begins in January 2014 and repeats in the spring to assist 30 students, 15 in each program session. All activities, except internships, will be held at the foundation, located at 21819 West 9 Mile Road in Southfield.

After participating in these activities, students will demonstrate improved proficiency in their ability to access job information, develop a proper resume and/or complete an application, conduct a job search, properly interview and understand workplace protocol, including important workplace vocabulary and appropriate dress.

The program awards a \$250 scholarship to students who intern with a participating employer that has partnered with the Foundation to help young people explore and develop their skills.

Paulette Boggs, board chair and president of the foundation and a longtime human resource specialist asserts: "By participating in job readiness learning experiences, young persons can exponentially improve not only their understanding of their career interest and the job-search process, but at the same time their social skills, because this type of training allows students to build confidence and improve communication skills necessary for school, work, and in life."

Interested students, including employers, should contact the Torch of Wisdom Foundation, Inc. by July 15 at 248.327.6815.

For more information about the foundation, please visit www.towfinc.org.