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**For Immediate Release**

**MARTIN UNIVERSITY RECEIVES \$1.25 MILLION FEDERAL GRANT**

INDIANAPOLIS – Martin University is the recipient of a \$1.25 million federal grant announced today by the university and the U. S. Department of Education.

The grant, to be broken into five \$250,000 increments over the next five years, is being given under the education department’s Predominantly Black Institutions (PBI) Program. The federal program is designed to enhance an institution’s capacity to serve more low and middle income, to encourage college preparation for students in secondary and post-secondary education and to strengthen an institution’s financial ability to serve such students.

“We are very grateful to Senator Richard Lugar for assisting us in applying for this grant and for helping to interpret the unique role Martin University plays in educating minority students,” said Dr. Charlotte Westerhaus-Renfrow, university president.

She said the grant will allow Martin to develop, implement and maintain online/distance learning programs at the school. The project will be implemented in five distinct phases, with each phase building on the previous segment.

“The grant will equip us to provide a 21<sup>st</sup> century educational experience utilizing the very latest in electronic communication tools,” said Dr. Westerhaus-Renfrow. “This improved capability should make us more attractive to students wanting to use the latest technologies to grow in knowledge.”

Located in Indianapolis, Martin is a private, not-for-profit liberal arts institution that provides excellence in education and developing all students with an expertise in serving and empowering low income and adult learners. Martin University is the only PBI in Indiana.