

December 1, 2005

Mr. Johnny Wilson, Jr.
Member, Board of Education
Madison Metropolitan School District
545 West Dayton Street
Madison, WI 53703-1995

Dear Mr. Winston:

It is with deep appreciation for past support that I present a grant proposal for \$25,000 to Fund 80 of the Madison Metropolitan School District to support the work of the Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth in collaboration with the district. Our success with Children of Promise—Madison at Toki Middle School in 2003-2005, the longer term successes of the girls who participated in our Young Women of Promise project in Madison in 2000, and the continuing need for financial aid that allows economically disadvantaged students to test as a part of the national Talent Search program and attend WCATY summer programs, as well as the desire to maintain the partnership with Toki Middle School, provide the focus for this request.

Through our summer programs, students enroll in fast-paced, academic courses that then put them on an accelerated track back in their regular schools. This is especially important to economically disadvantaged and minority children, who are often overlooked when decisions are made for enrollments in a school's most advanced courses. Children of Promise has allowed us to work with approximately 60 students at Toki Middle School as well as provide scholarships for financial aid to students citywide who have qualified to attend the summer academic programs.

Children with exceptional academic ability aren't always easily found and do not always perform at high levels in school. Being the smart kid in class can carry costs...the cost of being different...of feeling alone...of boredom...of heightening the risk of rebellion. Studies show that as many as 18% to 25% of all high school dropouts as well as prison inmates, nationwide, can be considered gifted.

WCATY—whose mission is to identify students early, provide them with challenging academic coursework and opportunities, and connect them with intellectual peers—is an oasis for smart and motivated young people. We look forward to increasing our collaborative efforts in Madison in order to provide the programs and services that meet students' needs. Your financial support will help us to build our programs and offer them to increasing numbers of district students.

Should you have any questions about the attached proposal, please do not hesitate to call me at 271-1617. I welcome the opportunity to work with the MMSD school board, administration, and teachers. I look forward to the opportunity to meet with you, the

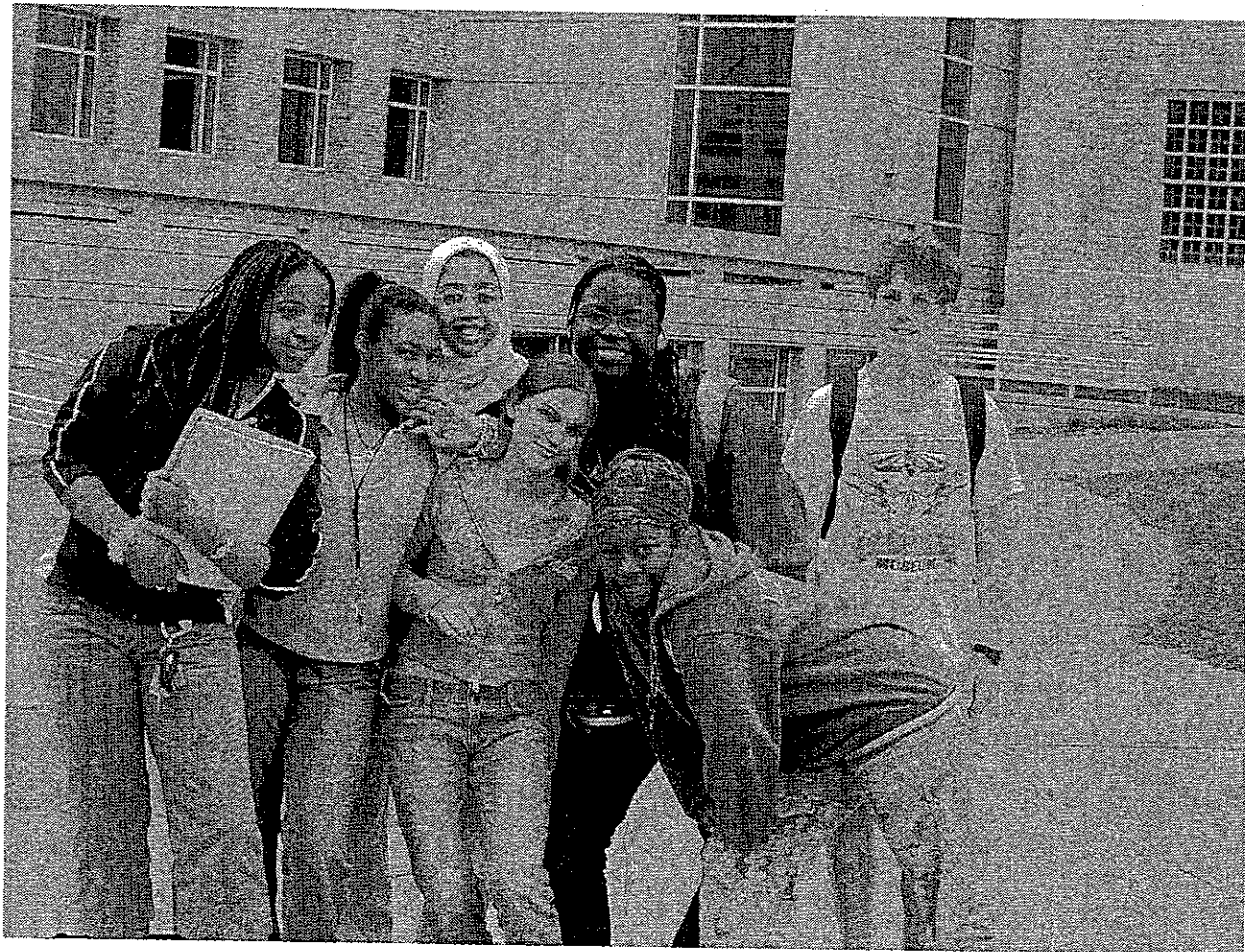
Board, Dr. Rainwater, Ms. Simousek, or others who are important to the communication process at any time. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Ellie Schatz, Ph.D.
President

Encl.

Proposal to
Madison Metropolitan School District – Fund 80
From
Wisconsin Center For Academically Talented Youth (WCATY)
For Children of Promise-Madison, Expanded



Note: Three of the above students are Madison Memorial High School students, previously from Toki Middle School, two students are from Children of Promise-Milwaukee, and two students are from other communities of Wisconsin. Photo taken at Lawrence University, ALP 2005.

Children of Promise-Madison 2006
Toki Middle School and Beyond

The Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth (WCATY) respectfully requests a grant of \$25,000 from Fund 80 of the Madison Metropolitan School District to work cooperatively with the district through three core services: 1) financial aid for disadvantaged Madison school district students to participate in Talent Search, the national testing service through which students are identified for out-of-level classes and services; 2) financial aid for disadvantaged Madison students to attend accelerated academic programs through WCATY; and 3) support to help ensure continuation of the existing Children of Promise program at Toki Middle School.

Through these services we will reach approximately 135-140 area students: 100 to participate in Talent Search testing, 15-20 from any Madison school to receive partial to full (less \$75 application fee) financial aid to attend a WCATY summer program, and 20 to participate in identification, counseling, and programming at Toki. Our objectives are to extend our services to an increased number of gifted and talented students in the Madison Metropolitan School District and to specifically reach children of color and low economic means. These disadvantaged students are traditionally under-represented in gifted programs and advanced classes nationally. The funds for Talent Search, summer programs, and the Toki middle school program will all be earmarked for children with high need.

Children of Promise outreach in Madison began in 2000, with funding from the Madison Community Foundation and A Fund for Women to support fifteen "Young Women of Promise." The girls were identified by three community organizations: the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County, and Northport and Packers Avenue Subsidized Housing Learning Centers. All fifteen girls attended MMSD schools. All fifteen girls completed a counseling program designed to encourage their academic goals and extend their awareness of college preparatory activities and classes. Several are still active in WCATY, and report high academic and career goals. WCATY continues to work annually with the Boys and Girls Club and the housing centers to identify children for testing and summer classes.

In 2003, "Children of Promise-Madison" was begun as a collaboration between WCATY, Toki Middle School and Madison Metropolitan School District to identify economically disadvantaged students with exceptional academic ability, provide them with appropriate academic programming and counseling, and nurture them to develop their talents. National statistics show that giftedness is equally represented across economic levels and cultural and ethnic backgrounds, yet children of color and economically disadvantaged children are under-represented in advanced classes and gifted programs. Therefore, since there are more poor children than rich children in our country, attention must be paid to ensuring that they are accurately identified and appropriately served. The Children of Promise project is helping WCATY to identify and serve these children. The long-range goal of this proposal is to expand the program to more schools and to include more partners who can find those children who should benefit from WCATY offerings.

Talent Search

More than 300,000 third through eighth grade students now participate annually in the Talent Search process nationwide. Students in the ninety-fifth percentile and above according to in-grade standardized tests take tests designed for older students—college admissions tests for students in grades 7 and 8, and a test designed for eighth graders for younger students. On grade-level tests, students scoring at the top are grouped together by what is called a ceiling effect. We cannot tell from the test results how much more they know or are able to reason. Out-of-level tests remove the ceiling. They help a district to know how differentiated a curriculum needs to be for a given student. For some students, the existing curriculum may be a perfect match. For others, varying levels of enrichment or acceleration may be clearly indicated. For those students scoring at the top of these tests, they let parents know what programs are available nationwide that can supplement what their schools can offer. They give all participating students practice with tests that will someday be critical to their college admissions process. They verify for all participants that they are smart and should develop their abilities to their fullest.

WCATY proposes to use up to \$4,000 of the grant to help Madison Metropolitan School District identify disadvantaged students through Talent Search. WCATY will work through TAG resource teachers, who will screen for students in the 95th percentile and above. They will actively encourage high-ability students to participate and will coordinate the process by which WCATY will pay the Talent Search fees, less \$10 per student, for up to 100 students who would otherwise be unable to participate. WCATY has developed a cooperative process with Northwestern University, the Midwest testing center for Talent Search, and other partner organizations that will make the process efficient and effective for the Madison teachers.

WCATY Summer Programs

WCATY summer programs provide elementary through high school students one, two or three-week residential experiences on college campuses. Students are presented with rigorous, accelerated curricula and opportunities for social and emotional development. These offerings were a major focus at WCATY when it was founded in 1991 and remain our flagship programs. Students in grades 3-6 will have the opportunity to attend the one-week Young Students Summer Program on the Beloit College campus. Tuition is \$895 for the one week. Students in grades 7-8 will have the opportunity to attend the two-week Summer Transitional Enrichment Program on the Edgewood College campus. Tuition for this program is \$1,698. High school students who have tested and perform within the top ½ of 1 percent of students academically will have the opportunity to attend the three-week Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) at St. Norbert College. Tuition for this program is \$2,198. Some of the students identified at Toki Middle School between 2003-2005 have excelled at WCATY and attended ALP in 2005. Fund 80 financial aid funds will be earmarked for one to three of these students to return in 2006. Students in high school could also attend the new one-week Career and College Planning and Exploration Program on the Milwaukee School of Engineering Campus. Tuition for this program, including the \$100 career exploration test that all participants will take, is \$1,075. WCATY proposes that \$18,000 be earmarked for approximately 15 students to participate in summer 2006 programs at an average award of \$1,200 per student in financial aid.

This summer program funding might also be earmarked for one or two exceptionally talented middle school students with a strong passion for a particular discipline to participate in our Young Scholar Program. This is a mentor-guided, independent study opportunity in which 7th and 8th graders who have participated in Talent Search write grant proposals to pursue projects of their own design. The students must identify and then work with an expert in their field of study. Grantees receive \$500 stipends to develop their projects. WCATY has an online study guide for proposal development, and MMSD resource teachers would be able to identify and guide candidates through this option for highly gifted students. Proposals could be written after school with the help of teachers, community agency program staff, and parents. Work occurs in the summer, with scholars presenting their results at a Saturday Young Scholar Fair at American Family headquarters in the fall.

Children of Promise-Toki Middle School

Approximately 60 students have been identified through Children of Promise-Madison at Toki Middle School since 2003. These students report increased self-esteem, increased interest in academics, and long-term goals that include college and "breaking the cycle of poverty" in which many of them live. One high school student reported, "WCATY has given me true friends, with truly unique minds. It has let me see how much I know about myself, my education, my success, and how much I truly know about the world. ... It has given me the opportunity to maybe become that young lady that I have always dreamed of... who will find happiness within herself, who will affect the world in some way... who can survive through all obstacles and achieve ultimate success just by being given the opportunity." A sixth grader reported, "I'm glad my friends got me into reading more. Before, I did read, but not as much as now." Another of the older students wrote, "My career goals in the future have something to do with writing. Maybe an author, playwright, or poet... Going to WCATY will help me achieve my career goals. Thank you SO much for making that dream possible for me."

Much of the success at Toki Middle School can be attributed to the work of school psychologist, Wendy Johnson, who has identified students and worked closely with them and their families for three years. Some of the funds proposed for Talent Search identification and summer program fees will help to defray costs of maintaining our work with Toki students. \$3,000 of the funds will support Dr. Johnson's continued work at Toki as well as the collaborative work of the WCATY program directors with Dr. Johnson as well as the TAG resource teachers in Madison. Dr. Johnson will serve as mentor to the resource teachers, and will provide guidelines in identifying, counseling, and preparing the students for testing and accelerated program opportunities. As a part of her work, she will provide an in-service training session for any staff MMSD would identify for participation. In 2006, her counseling work will emphasize use of the *WCATY College Planning Guide and Portfolio* as a tool for students to build their resumes and plan for college.

Other sources of financing -- Approximately 60 percent of our annual budget comes from private gifts and grants and 40 percent comes from tuition and fees. To continue, and build upon, proven programs, we are seeking support in 2006 from a variety of foundations, corporations and

WCATY constituents. Children of Promise-Madison is budgeted at \$36,381. This budget does not include the increased identification and programming proposed beyond Toki Middle School.

The WCATY Children of Promise 2006 draft budget for Madison and Milwaukee is attached. With the \$25,000 proposed from Fund 80, the total Madison budget would increase to \$50,000 or slightly more. This reflects some overlap with current efforts at Toki, as represented in the existing budget, and the extended services to children from other MMSD schools.

2005 sponsors included CUNA Mutual Foundation, Eyjue Foundation, Bank One and A Fund for Women (AFFW). The AFFW funding was a one-time grant for 2005, but the other three sponsors are anticipated as supporters of Children of Promise-Madison, 2006. Approximately \$25,000 of the \$36,381 budget is anticipated from these three funding sources. Madison Rotary has been a supporter of WCATY financial aid for Madison area students in the past and is being approached for possible funding again in 2006.

Summary

Eighty-three percent of alumni who responded to a 2005 survey of long-term effects reported that WCATY participation had helped them to:

- Succeed in advanced courses in high school;
- Approach teachers and administrators to shape their curriculum to meet their needs;
- Succeed in higher education and determine to go further in their graduate education;
- Meet new people and establish friendships with like-minded peers;
- Succeed in assuming adult roles and making contributions to their communities;
- Identify particular areas of passion and fields of study.

Although the results of the Children of Promise project are encouraging, there are important program changes that we propose for 2006 in order to reach more children and provide more consistency in services throughout the school year. These changes include: 1) Expand to new schools across the city of Madison; continue to work with the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County and the Northport and Packers Avenue subsidized housing centers in Madison as well as Toki Middle School; expand to other community organizations such as Centro Hispano, Urban League, and African American Academy. 2) Encourage eligible students from this broader set of partner schools and organizations to participate in Talent Search and one of five 2006 summer academic programs. The first four years of the project demonstrate through ACT and SAT scores and rigorous course completion that participating students are experiencing success. Different programs are designed to serve students of different ages and levels of ability. Optimal match between curriculum and student characteristics is the key to learning success. Explaining and implementing the optimal match model is critical as we expand.

Over time, though not through this funding option, we propose implementation of the WCATY District Cooperative Online Course Program between four or five Madison public schools. The co-op program has provided a much needed regular-school-year extension of our work statewide. We have experienced a 77.5 percent increase in student enrollment in 2005, and anticipate an even greater increase in 2006. Such a partnership would enable Madison teachers to recommend high potential students for co-ops who have not tested in Talent Search. This, in turn, could

become an added way for district classroom and resource teachers to determine student readiness and appropriateness for testing. A certified Madison Metropolitan School District teacher could teach the class.

The Children of Promise program takes our mission to an important second dimension that must be aligned with our standards for identification and excellence. Statistics show that gifted children come in equal proportions from across economic levels and ethnic populations. However, disadvantaged children are at greater risk of not being identified, and according to national statistics minority students are largely not being served. Because of their WCATY experience, the 13 Toki Middle School students who participated in programs this summer are less likely to be among the 20 percent of high school dropouts or prison inmates reported to be within the gifted range of intelligence. Their comments as well as their academic successes attest to this likelihood. One middle school student wrote, "This program has been the best thing that has happened to me so far. [It] got me to use the full extent of my abilities both academically and athletically. ... I got to meet people of all sorts of races, characters, talents, and qualities. I learned a lot about the opportunities that I have in life." A current senior who has participated in Children of Promise-Milwaukee wrote, "Please consider sponsoring WCATY in the future. I regret having to leave the program (aged out!) because I know how many amazing things I will miss next year and all the years that follow. If I had not experienced even one year at ALP, my life would be so different... I have become a better, more satisfied person. I wouldn't want to keep that from anyone just because they couldn't afford this wonderful experience."

Attachment: WCATY Children of Promise 2006 Projected Budget (Changes to this budget related to this proposal are explained in the proposal text.)

Budget Children of Promise – Milwaukee and Madison

Expense Category	Unit cost	Total- Milwaukee	Madison	Grand Total
Salaries and Benefits:				
Program Director	\$48,067 x .25 = \$12,017	\$ 9,617	\$ 2,400	\$ 12,017
WCATY Administrator	\$68,870 x .10 = \$6,887	\$ 5,510	\$1,377	\$ 6,887
WCATY Support staff	\$44,682 x .10 = \$4,468	\$ 3,574	\$894	\$ 4,468
District Cooperative Online Courses	\$6,000 x 4	\$ 24,000	\$0	\$ 24,000
Coordinators (Milwaukee = 10 x \$2,500; Madison = 1 x \$2,500	\$2,500 x 10 \$2,500 x 1	\$ 25,000	\$2,500	\$ 27,500
Travel: Madison-Milwaukee round trip + local @ 26 miles	200 miles x 10 trips x .38.5 per mile	\$ 770	\$10	\$ 780
Summer Program Financial Aid: 50 students x average program fee - Milwaukee students; 20 Madison students	\$1,200 x 50 \$1,200 x 20	\$60,000	\$ 24,000	\$84,000
Midwest Academic Talent Search fees: 100 students x average test fee = 20 students - Madison	\$30 x 100	\$ 3,000	\$ 600	\$ 3,600
Books, other course materials, laboratory fees @ 5% of financial aid cost	\$80,000 x .10	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 4,000
Indirect office expenses @ 15% of combined summer program (financial aid) and district co-op costs	(\$84,000 + \$24,000) x .15	\$12,600	\$3,600	\$16,200
Total		\$147,071	\$36,381	\$183,452

Response to concern with the WCATY Children of Promise-Madison, expanded proposal:

1. The concern: Involvement of MMSD Talented and Gifted Staff
2. The response: WCATY will work with whomever the school district wishes in accomplishing the goals set forth in this proposal. The TAG staff does not have to be directly involved. WCATY employees are responsible for all administrative and instructional functions. Support is needed only for information dissemination.

Goal 1 – Identify 100 disadvantaged students for testing in Talent Search.

Potential ways to do this:

- Put information regarding the tests and the financial aid process in all school newsletters.
- Send information to all 4th – 8th grade students in the 95th percentile or above according to a standardized test from 1st through 7th grades.
- Other as suggested by the school district.

Goal 2 – Identify students for program participation

- Work with community groups as outlined in the proposal – Subsidized housing centers, Boys and Girls Club, Urban League, Centro Hispano, African American Academy, and others who can help families understand program expectations and application procedures.

Goal 3 – Continue to reach a diverse population of students from Toki Middle School.

- This is the existing project, coordinating by a MMSD employee during non-school hours. 60 children have been tested in 3 years. Past successes of Toki participants demonstrates value in continuing the project.

Summary: Madison Metropolitan School District staff will not be used in this project in any way that violates their school district contracts. WCATY wishes to partner with the school district in offering our services to qualified students from all parts of the city and from all ethnic and income backgrounds.

Children of Promise-Madison, Expanded

Madison Metropolitan School District – Fund 80

Project Budget

Financial aid: (15 MMSD students to attend WCATY programs)	\$18,000
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Test fees: (100 students to participate in Midwest Talent Search)	\$ 4,000
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Children of Promise-Toki Middle School (after-school groups for parents and students)	\$ 3,000
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Total	\$25,000
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