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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CultureLEAP Receives Funding From Greater Worcester Community Foundation

Expanding the Arts-Integrated Education Model in the Worcester Public Schools

CultureLEAP has been awarded a discretionary grant in the amount of \$10,405 from Greater Worcester Community Foundation to expand the present arts-integrated education model within the Worcester Public Schools, grades K-12.

These funds will be used to increase the number of students benefiting from the rich cultural resources of Worcester County through hands-on learning experiences. Greater Worcester Community Foundation funds will be used to support CultureLEAP's Teacher Discretionary Grant Program and its LEAP Programs. Teacher discretionary grants allow individual teachers in the Worcester Public Schools to apply for funding up to \$500 for cultural program and transportation costs. LEAP programs are coordinated through the WPS Office of Staff and Curriculum Development and allow entire grade levels of students across the district to experience cultural programs tied directly into curriculum frameworks. Additional funding support for both the Teacher Discretionary Program and LEAP Programs has been received this year from the Worcester Cultural Commission, Webster Five Foundation, Abbott Labs and C.C. Lowell.

The following are two upcoming LEAP programs:

- Beginning in February 2010, every 4th grade student across the district (approx. 1,850) will experience a visual art and language arts program based on master landscapes in the permanent collection of the Worcester Art Museum.
- On February 24th, 2010, every 10th grade student across the district (approx. 1,500) will have the opportunity to see Shakespeare and Company's *Julius Caesar* come to life at The Hanover Theatre after reading and studying the script in literature class.

CultureLEAP, formerly the Worcester Arts and Humanities Educational Collaborative, is a coalition of cultural institutions, funding partners, and the Worcester Public Schools that links students and teachers with the extensive cultural resources of Worcester County. By matching these connections to the curriculum, student learning experiences are expanded beyond school walls. Worcester County has a wealth of cultural resources to boast. For students and teachers, these cultural resources provide inquiry-based, experiential opportunities for learning. The many rich objects located in our art, science and history museums, as well as our theaters, libraries and historic buildings promote creativity and critical thinking, and spark curiosity and a love of learning.

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