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**Indianapolis-based Peace Learning Center receives \$800,000 grant from Lilly Endowment**  
*Two-year grant will support major strategic goals including bullying prevention, expanding early childhood education programs, and creating more program partnerships.*

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN**– Lilly Endowment Inc. recently awarded Peace Learning Center (PLC) an \$800,000 grant to support its efforts to educate students, teachers, and parents in conflict resolution and social emotional learning skills. PLC’s education programs are designed to improve academic outcomes while reducing school discipline problems. The grant will also support a major partnership with ACT OUT – an interactive theater troupe directed by Claude McNeal Productions – and create more program partnerships with underserved area schools.

Peace Learning Center’s approach incorporates communication skills, bullying prevention, diversity appreciation and conflict resolution techniques for every student and teacher and as many family members as possible. The goal of Peace Learning Center and Act Out’s program partnership is to improve academic performance and build character through relationship and conflict management education.

“Lilly Endowment’s support will enable us to expand proven programs that help youth build conflict resolution and critical thinking skills and deepen their commitment to education,” said Tim Nation, co-founder and executive director of Peace Learning Center.

Peace Learning Center and ACT OUT programs have been proven effective by researchers at IUPUI’s Center for Urban and Multicultural Education. In addition, during the 2012-2013 school year at Irvington Community High School, a 12 week program was implemented with all freshmen students and was the only intervention in place. School administrators determined that behavior referrals dropped 67% after the completion of the program.

Peace Learning Center is an Indianapolis-based non-profit that has impacted the lives of more than 170,000 people locally and internationally since it first began in 1997. Its mission is to educate, inspire and empower people to live peacefully. Its programs are now in operation in eight cities nationally and five countries worldwide. Every year, nearly 10,000 youth and adults participate in PLC programs. As a community educational institution, PLC promotes healthy learning, workplace and community environments by establishing safe and common ways to address differences and teaches processes to help build community and healthy communication for youth, parents, adults, and professionals. To learn more, visit [www.peacelearningcenter.org](http://www.peacelearningcenter.org).

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