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W. K. Kellogg Foundation Awards the Institute of Women & Ethnic Studies a Grant to Promote Community Wellness in New Orleans East

New Orleans, LA (July 30, 2013) - The Institute of Women & Ethnic Studies (IWES), in partnership with the Vietnamese American Young Leaders Association of New Orleans (VAYLA-NO) and the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DSCEJ), with support from the New Orleans Health Department, announces the New Orleans East Solutions in Synergy (NOESIS) to promote community wellness and resilience to create environments where children and their families can thrive.

IWES is one of three grantees selected among candidates from Mississippi, Louisiana, Michigan, and New Mexico. The \$60,000 grant to engage in planning and communicating activities over a 17-month period comes from the Well Community Project through the Samuels Institute, Common Health Action and the Institute for Alternative Futures, ultimately funded through the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

Dr. Denese Shervington, founder of IWES, said *"IWES is proud to work in partnership with such outstanding organizations to continue the most difficult component of post-disaster recovery - reclaiming emotional resiliency and the human spirit."*

NOESIS efforts will focus on: engaging various community groups, neighborhood associations and schools within safe spaces to promote personal and collective healing; assessing and identifying priority needs within these pillars, focusing particularly on the emotional wellbeing of youth; and, tackling those priority needs through community-driven projects.

"While DSCEJ has a long standing history of addressing disparities in the physical environment of marginalized groups, we recognize the need to dually address the gaps in the social environment of this population. We are excited to embark upon this dynamic project through our partnership with IWES," said Dr. Beverly Wright, director of DSCEJ.

Since 1993, IWES has worked to address health inequities in communities of color in New Orleans and has learned that in order to improve community resilience, the solution lies in engaging stronger and healthier communities, not just building stronger programs and services. With deep roots in the city, IWES works together with communities to achieve mutually agreed upon goals and objectives. For further information about the Institute, please visit iwesnola.org.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, established in 1930, supports children, families, and communities as they strengthen and create conditions that propel vulnerable children to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger community and society. Grants are concentrated in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and southern Africa. For further information on the foundation, please visit www.wkkf.org.