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For Immediate Release

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Washington D.C. - Congressman John P. Murtha, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, announced today that Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) has received a \$231,000 Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement (McNair) Program grant through the U.S. Department of Education.

The McNair Program is designed to provide low-income and minority students, with strong academic potential, preparation for doctoral study. The goal is to increase the attainment of Ph.D. degrees by providing academic counseling, financial aid assistance, mentoring, tutoring, research opportunities and internships.

IUP first received a McNair Program grant in 2003, and to date has received \$800,000 through the program.

"This funding will allow IUP to continue improving the availability and resources of their nationally recognized graduate level programs to students from disadvantaged backgrounds," said Murtha. "These types of programs help our students academically and prepare them to meet the challenges they will encounter post-graduation."

"This positive development is additional evidence of IUP's commitment to diversity and educational attainment," said IUP President Dr. Tony Atwater. "Continuation of the McNair's Scholars Program also signals the high academic quality of this initiative and the program's sustained success."

"We take pride in Congressman Murtha's on-going support of IUP and his commitment to helping area students build successful futures," said Atwater.

This grant will enable IUP to provide 20 low-income, first-generation college students from underrepresented groups who have demonstrated strong academic potential, with the skills needed for entry into graduate study and to earn a doctoral degree.