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JCCC Foundation

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**JCCC FOUNDATION AWARDS \$120,063 TO CHICAGO AREA EDUCATIONAL,
ARTS AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS**

CHICAGO, IL – The JCCC Foundation awarded 21 grants totaling \$120,063 to Chicago area educational, arts and civic organizations this year as part of its annual grant giving program. JCCC Foundation President, Mr. Yoshihiro Ozawa of Japan Airlines International, formally presented the grants at an award ceremony on Tuesday, October 19 at the Chicago Club. The ceremony included a speech from the Honorable Yutaka Yoshizawa, Consul General of Japan.

The JCCC Foundation, a non-profit organization, is the charitable arm of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Chicago (JCCC). Funding for the JCCC Foundation grant program is derived entirely through JCCC member contributions and member-supported fund raising events. Through this support, the JCCC Foundation has given 334 grants totaling \$1,964,633 to 236 Chicago area schools and non-profit organizations since its inception.

Each year, the JCCC Foundation awards educational grants, known as the Student Development and Achievement Grants, of up to \$5,000 to organizations with programs that convert educational theory into concrete actions that foster personal initiative, development of adult values, and development of real-life problem solving. This year, a total of 106 organizations submitted proposals, which were initially reviewed by a volunteer staff of educators. The grant recipients were then selected by the JCCC Foundation Board of Directors from among the top scoring proposals.

“The Chicago area has been very welcoming to Japanese businesses and people over the years,” said Susumu Saito, Secretary of the JCCC Foundation. “It is an honor and a privilege for the JCCC Foundation to give back to the communities in which we live by sponsoring excellent educational and cross-cultural programs.”

This year’s JCCC Foundation educational grants will fund programs in a wide range of areas, including literacy, arts education, museum programming, career preparation and mentoring. Recipients of this year’s educational grants include Barrel of Monkeys, CARC (Chicago Association of Retarded Citizens), Chicago Architecture Foundation, Chicago Commons, Jonathan Burr Elementary School, Leap Learning Systems, Swedish American Museum of Chicago and We The People Media. As part of its overall grant-giving program, the JCCC Foundation also awarded U.S.–Japan Partnership Grants to six cross-cultural programs that promote friendship and understanding between the people of Japan and the United States. Recipients of this year’s partnership grants include The Chicago Shimpo, The Art Institute of Chicago and the Japan America Society of Chicago.

For more information on the JCCC Foundation’s grant giving program as well as past grant recipients, visit: <http://www.jccc-chi.org/foundation/index.html>. Founded in 1966, the JCCC has taken an active role in the Chicago area for over 38 years, and has made it a priority to give back to the community through philanthropic giving. A recent survey of its members conducted by the JCCC in July 2004 showed that 73 member corporations engaged in 292 types of philanthropic activities over the past 3 years alone. Encompassing a wide variety of industries from manufacturing to travel, the JCCC’s membership includes 388 corporate members – including the Chicago offices of Japanese corporations – and 100 individual members.

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