

The John Behrens Foundation  
20 Clinton Plaza  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
(614)683-3465 (Ms Stacy Potts)  
After 7 P.M. (614) 683-1423

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lancaster, OH, Jan. 10-A total of \$3 million in grants was awarded today (Jan: 10) by the John Behrens Foundation to five universities in support of their journalism and public relations programs.

The five universities and the awards granted to them are: Howard University (\$800,000); Penn State University (\$600,000); Ohio State University (\$600,000); South Carolina University (\$500,000); and California State University; Fullerton (\$500,000).

In announcing the grants, Mark Behrens, president of the foundation bearing his family name, said they represent the largest single sum of money awarded by the foundation for a single purpose.

"The main purpose of the grants is to demonstrate in a very tangible way the foundation's support of those universities that have been providing quality journalism and public relations education," Behrens said.

"As a further demonstration of our faith in the five universities, we have made the grants with no strings attached. The schools are free to use the grant money as they see fit, and we have sufficient faith in their wisdom to know they will use it to best advantage in their programs.

Department heads of the public relations and journalism degree programs at the five schools have indicated they will use the grant money for student scholarship programs, equipment, and faculty enrichment programs. Typical of their reaction to the grant announcement was the following comment from Professor Cele French of Ohio State University:

"We are truly indebted to the Behrens Foundation for its support of our programs," said Professor French. "The financial assistance will be of immeasurable assistance to our students, faculty, and university. The recognition given to our programs provides both a spiritual and practical lift for all of us."

Established in 1980, the Behrens Foundation has awarded a total of \$20 million in support of music, particularly jazz, and education. Today's block grant was the sixth in support of journalism and public relations education.

-30-

File #34  
Jan. 10, 1995