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HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER SELECTS BETHANY TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL PROJECT LINDSBORG, Kan.—During the upcoming academic year, Bethany College will participate in a national higher education project known as “Foundations of Excellence® in the First College Year.” The project, sponsored by the John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education, will utilize a model of excellence for the first year student experience. This project is designed to help campuses evaluate and improve the overall experience of first-year students.

Research has long indicated that new students who are successfully integrated into college are much more likely to succeed. Many colleges, therefore, work especially hard to create a first-rate experience for new students.

Since February 2003, the Foundations of Excellence project has involved more than 300 colleges and universities across the country in developing the standards (“Foundational Dimensions ®”) that constitute a model first year. Bethany College will work with the Gardner Institute, based in Brevard, N.C., to measure effectiveness in recruiting, admitting, orienting, supporting, advising and teaching new students. After assessment, the college will then be able to make programmatic improvements that will increase student learning, success and persistence.

In response to the selection, Bethany College President Edward F. Leonard III said, “I am very excited Bethany was selected to work with the Gardner Institute to create an even better experience for Bethany students. Research is clear about the importance of the first year in college. If we are successful in building a better first year experience, we will begin building a better Bethany experience. That should then result in significantly higher retention and graduate percentages.”

Additional information about the John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education and this project can be found at www.fyfoundations.org.

Bethany College, established by Swedish Lutheran immigrants in 1881, is a college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The mission of Bethany College is to educate, develop and challenge individuals to reach for truth and excellence as they lead lives of faith, learning and service. Bethany College is on the Web at www.bethanylb.edu.