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For Immediate Release

Are Today's Parents Ill-Equipped?

CLEVELAND, February 15, 2007 – In a recently published book on parenting a former university professor and now Executive Director of the Sankoré Institute suggests that today's parents are ill-equipped for the task of rearing children in modern society.

Bradford F. Lewis, Ph.D., a former professor at the University of Pittsburgh and Morgan State University, has studied the teaching and learning of science for over 14 years. *What would a professor of science education have to say about parenting?* According to Lewis, "The biggest problems students have in learning science are not related to science at all. What I have found is that many children are not developing very basic traits (i.e. habits, dispositions, and ways of thinking) that all humans need." Lewis goes on to point out that the consequence is not only children who have trouble learning science, but children who have trouble learning any academic subject. According to Lewis, "Our failure to help children develop these very basic traits explains many of the maladies we see in modern society."

To address this concern Lewis recently published *The Greatest Gifts a Parent Can Give*. In this book he identifies 33 "Gifts" that parents should give to their children in order for them to become happy, healthy and well-adjusted adults. The "Gifts" that parents should give are structured around four traits that children should have in their development: Gifts of Childhood, Gifts of Habit, Gifts of Mind, and Gifts of Preparation. Lewis operates from the assumption that there is nothing wrong with our children. They are for good or for ill products of their environment. From this perspective, our effort should be three-fold.

- First, position parents to identify the elements of popular culture that are detrimental to children's development;
- second, help parents to identify the type of environment students should have; and
- third equip parents to recreate positive environments for their children.

Lewis hastens to add that although parents may not be the primary cause of children's failure to develop certain basic traits, parents are best positioned to be the cure.

To News Editors and Reporters: Dr. Lewis's research centers on worldview theory, students' science knowledge and the influence of that knowledge on their decisions to pursue science and science-related careers. He can be reached at: Sankoré Institute • P.O. Box 20286 • Cleveland, OH 44120 • 216-373-6898 (w).

A book excerpt can be provided upon request. Review copies of the full manuscript can be provided with a secured interview. Dr. Lewis is willing to serve as a guest anytime of day, and on short notice.

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