



Contact: Blanche Podhajski, President (802) 878-2332 bpodhajski@sterncenter.org

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hoehl Family Donates Million Dollars to Stern Center Literacy Gift to establish Cynthia K. Hoehl Institute for Excellence

Williston, VT - The Stern Center for Language and Learning has received a \$1 Million contribution from the Hoehl Family Foundation to establish the Cynthia K. Hoehl Institute for Excellence. This gift, the largest single donation ever given to the Stern Center, will make learning opportunities accessible to more students and teachers than ever before. The contribution includes seed money for an endowment to ensure the Institute's legacy.

Dr. Blanche Podhajski, founder and president of the Stern Center, noted, "This is truly a gift to Vermont, to its students and its teachers. It is particularly inspiring as the Stern Center celebrates our 25th anniversary. The Hoehls' generosity furthers the Stern Center's Four STAR Vision for the future—providing Services, Talent, Accessibility, and Resources to all learners."

The Stern Center is a nonprofit literacy organization dedicated to helping children and adults reach their full potential. The Stern Center's slogan, "Because all great minds don't think alike," indicates their unique approach to diagnosing and addressing individual learning differences.

This landmark contribution reflects the Hoehl family's passion for teaching and learning. Cynthia Hoehl explained, "As a Stern Center board member, I've watched the extraordinary impact that Blanche and her team have had on individuals who learn differently. Our family decided to invest in the future of Vermont by expanding the Stern Center's powerful programs to reach more students and more teachers."

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The Hoehl Institute will underwrite a portion of the costs of Stern Center instruction and its professional development programs. Eligible families will benefit from reduced fees for instruction. School leaders and individual educators will be invited to submit proposals to receive grants for professional development.

Podhajski explained that, “Many people who struggle with reading, writing, and mathematics don’t learn the same way as those who find those subjects easy. Adults and children served by the Stern Center may be challenged by learning disabilities such as dyslexia, by attention deficit disorders, or by differences in how they learn best.” She added, “We respect all learners, and we’re committed to helping people identify their learning strengths and challenges and to finding solutions that allow all minds to learn.”

Stern Center instruction and professional development services are provided by specially educated and trained professionals. Instruction is intense, scientifically based, cutting-edge, and individualized. Professional development courses for educators are designed to extend the knowledge and skills necessary for classroom teachers to deliver similar instruction to their own students.

For more information on the Stern Center for Language and Learning, please visit www.sterncenter.org

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