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**Questa Foundation and the University of Saint Francis Announce Agreement**

August 24, 2009, Fort Wayne, Indiana: Questa Foundation for Education and the University of Saint Francis have announced an agreement aimed at helping Allen County students graduate from college with less debt and encouraging these students to live and work in northeast Indiana after graduation.

Questa Foundation sponsors the Questa Scholars 1/2 Back Loan Program that offers qualified Allen County high school students forgiveness of up to 50 percent of their Questa Scholars loan if they graduate from college with a 2.75 GPA and choose to reside and work in northeast Indiana for at least five years after graduation. The University of Saint Francis will forgive an additional 25 percent of a Questa Scholar's loan balance if the student participates in the 1/2 Back Loan Program and graduates from the university within four years and with a 2.75 cumulative GPA or higher. Five Questa Scholars are attending the University of Saint Francis at this time.

"Because the university is located in Fort Wayne and many of our students come from Allen County, it is especially important for us to partner with Questa, a local foundation, to achieve our common goals," noted Ron Schumacher, Vice President for Enrollment.

"With this agreement, Questa Scholars attending the University of Saint Francis may have up to 75 percent of their principal loan balance forgiven," said Christina Smith, Executive Director of Questa Foundation.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for University of Saint Francis students," commented President, Sister Elise Kriss. "As one of the lowest priced private colleges in Indiana, we are always focused on keeping the cost of education as low as possible. Also we look forward to having these graduates living and working in northeast Indiana. The Questa Scholars program is a win-win situation for everyone, especially the community."

For more information, phone Ron Schumacher, Vice President for Enrollment at the University of Saint Francis, at 260-399-7700, ext. 6340 (rschumacher@sf.edu) or Christina K. Smith,

Executive Director of Questa Foundation for Education at 260-407-6491  
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Questa Foundation for Education is an Allen County-based foundation for education. Its mission is to expand educational opportunity and encourage greater financial freedom for Allen County students with financial need by providing affordable college loans and generous scholarships that reward academic success and retain graduates in northeast Indiana.

The University of Saint Francis, founded in 1890, is a comprehensive university in the Catholic Franciscan tradition, offering undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 2,100 students from a broad geographic region.

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