

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Contact Information:**

Christina K. Smith  
Executive Director  
Questa Foundation for Education  
cksmith@questafoundation.org  
(260) 407-6494



**2009 Brain Gain Program Application Period Now Open**

September 21, 2009, Fort Wayne, Indiana: The Questa Foundation for Education is now accepting applications for its 2009 Brain Gain Program. The Brain Gain Program assists college graduates working in selected fields in Allen County with repayment of their educational loans.

Launched in 2005 with the leadership support of former City Councilman Dr. John Crawford, the Brain Gain Program is one way in which Questa seeks to retain college graduates in Allen County and to encourage greater financial freedom for a well-educated workforce.

“Assisting with loan repayment and debt reduction for Allen County’s best and brightest employees in high-demand, high tech fields is a great way to attract and retain the intellectual capital our community needs to successfully compete in a global economy,” says Christina K. Smith, executive director of Questa Foundation.

To be eligible, Brain Gain applicants must already have completed a bachelor’s and/or graduate degree in engineering, engineering technologies, or computer engineering and be employed in Allen County, Indiana for at least one year in advanced manufacturing, computer information technology, or biomedical/biotechnology. Applicants also must have received a federal student loan or other loan approved by the Questa Loan Review Committee with school loan debt still outstanding.

The loan repayment grant will be applied toward recipients’ college loan debt and will be made in four annual payments of \$2,500, up to a maximum of \$10,000. To qualify for each \$2,500 annual payment, recipients must meet annual employment requirements in designated fields in Allen County.

To apply for a Brain Gain Program grant, applicants must submit the following information to Questa Foundation for Education at P.O. Box 5224, Fort Wayne, IN 46895:

- Official copy(s) of college or university transcript(s);
- Lender's current statement of the applicant's educational loan account number, account balance and lender's contact information regarding payments;
- Letter of recommendation from applicant's employer that includes current position, dates of employment, verification of work in one of the designated eligible fields, and why the applicant should receive a Brain Gain grant;
- List of community and/or extra-curricular activities in which the applicant has participated within the past two years; and
- A personal one-page letter of application stating academic major, current and future career goals and why the applicant should receive the award.

**The application deadline is October 30, 2009.** Awards will be announced by November 30. Questions about the Brain Gain Program should be directed to Questa Foundation at [info@questafoundation.org](mailto:info@questafoundation.org) or 260.407.6494.

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.

Originally established more than 70 years ago by R. Nelson Snider, principal of South Side High School, and later incorporated as the Fort Wayne Educational Foundation, Questa Foundation sponsors the Questa Scholars 1/2 Back Loan Program that offers qualified 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. For more information, visit [www.questafoundation.org](http://www.questafoundation.org).

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