



## **R.J. Reynolds Foundation Funds \$1.25 Million Reynolds American Endowments at WSSU**

**Winston-Salem, N.C., Nov. 2, 2005** – Providing a major boost to the current Capital Campaign for Winston-Salem State University (WSSU), the R.J. Reynolds Foundation will contribute \$1.25 million to endow a professorship and a new scholarship fund.

“These major grants by the R.J. Reynolds Foundation, which is supported by Reynolds American Inc. and its major subsidiary, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, reflect a relationship between business and higher education that continues to benefit the entire community,” said Steve Strawsburg, president of the Foundation. “We are very proud to establish this endowment with WSSU.”

Commenting on the contribution, Susan Ivey, Reynolds American Inc. CEO and president said, “These endowments continue to demonstrate our commitment to Winston-Salem State and acknowledge the valuable contribution the university makes to our region. Our contribution and the success of the university’s capital campaign will help ensure that Winston-Salem State continues to be a cornerstone of higher learning in our community and the state,” she said.

In accepting the contribution, WSSU Chancellor Harold L. Martin, Sr. said, “For more than a century, WSSU has counted R.J. Reynolds as a good friend and as a partner. This Foundation’s gift is generous not only in its size, but also in its timeliness. Gifts such as this, early in the campaign, demonstrate confidence, and we are very grateful.

“This gift will go a long way toward enabling the university to attract and retain exceptional faculty, as well as to prepare students for lives of personal and professional success. The grant helps us respond directly to the needs of the city, state and region,” Martin said.

Because WSSU is designated as a “Focused Growth Institution” by the University of North Carolina system, the R.J. Reynolds Foundation funds for the endowed professorship are eligible to be matched by the system’s Board of Governors’ Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund.

WSSU also said the scholarship fund endowed by R.J. Reynolds will be used to attract top high school graduates by paying full tuition, fees, books, room and board.

Winston-Salem State University, a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina, is a public university founded in 1892 in Winston-Salem. WSSU is a historically black university that today is a recognized regional institution offering baccalaureate and graduate programs to a diverse student population. *U.S. News and World Report* has ranked the university among Top Public Southern Comprehensive Colleges -- Bachelor’s Category for the last five years (2002-2006). WSSU currently offers more than 40 baccalaureate and seven master's degree programs to a student population of more than 5,500. For more information, visit [www.wssu.edu](http://www.wssu.edu).

The R.J. Reynolds Foundation administers charitable and educational-giving programs on behalf of Reynolds American Inc., R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company and its employees.

R.J. Reynolds, a subsidiary of Reynolds American Inc., is the second-largest tobacco company in the United States, manufacturing about one of every three cigarettes sold in the country. The company’s brands include five of the 10 best-selling U.S. cigarette brands: Camel, Kool, Winston, Salem and Doral. For more information, visit [www.rjrt.com](http://www.rjrt.com).