

Million dollar smiles: 11th District Congressman Joseph Knollenberg and William Tyndale College President Dr. James McHann unveiled plans for an expansion of the college's science department Friday. The college will receive \$1.5 million in federal funding to complete science labs and a learning resource center. McHann praised Knollenberg and former Senator Spence Abraham for their help.

STAFF PHOTO BY BOB DREZLER

Tyndale receives \$1.5 million for expansion

BY MARY RODRIGUE
STAFF WRITER

William Tyndale College in Farmington Hills has secured nearly \$1.5 million in federal funds to help an expansion of the small Christian liberal arts college on Twelve Mile west of Drake road.

U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, R-Bloomfield Hills, a four-term member of the House Appropriations Committee, made the announcement Friday in Tyndale's Kresge chapel, which was packed with students, school staff, Tyndale board trustees and local politicians.

"This is the culmination of a great deal of work in Farmington Hills and Washington," said Paul Welsby, chief of staff for Knollenberg, whose 11th Congressional district includes southwest Oakland and northwest Wayne counties.

The funds come in the form of two grants, one from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the other from the Department of Labor totaling \$1.48 million. The money will be used for the Boll Mind Lab, an electronic

learning resource center as well as the proposed Center for Natural Sciences, a wing of labs and classrooms that will enhance the college's commitment to natural science education.

"We were able to get the funding because of the electronic library we're designing and because our science center will be a prototype for a new approach to science education," said college president James McHann.

Termed Project Kaleidoscope, the program will search for ways to improve science education for all undergraduate students to combat science illiteracy.

A longtime Knollenberg supporter, Dr. McHann met with the congressman and his staff in Washington, D.C., 18 months ago to make a pitch for support of the college's expansion plan.

Announced last year, the expansion is a \$23 million capital improvement project. McHann said there is no date set yet for groundbreaking of the new center.

Tyndale currently has about 700 students, and a growing number take classes off campus

or over the Internet.

"This is an institution you should all be proud of," said Knollenberg, who flew into Michigan Friday morning to make the noon announcement. He called the proposed Boll Mind Lab "one of the best in the country and it will be available to all."

"I saw something that went beyond just the local parochial scene," Knollenberg said. "This proposal made a whole lot of sense."

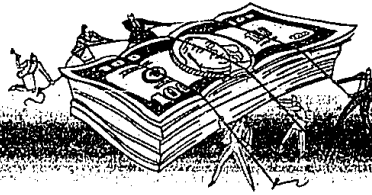
Knollenberg said former Michigan Sen. Spencer Abraham, newly appointed secretary of the Department of Energy, worked to get the proposal through the senate last year.

"It spanned the Department of Education and other agencies," Knollenberg said. "This will benefit the college and the community. I am confident the funds we invest today will result in a bright future at Tyndale College."

McHann praised the congressman's efforts.

"You've been a special friend to us. We are truly, sincerely grateful to you."

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