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## **The Literacy Cooperative Names Program Director**

### *Omobola Lana to Head Effort to Advance Literacy in Greater Cleveland*

(CLEVELAND) – March 6, 2006 – The Literacy Cooperative, a newly established entity working to advance literacy skills in Greater Cleveland, has chosen Omobola Lana as program director.

Lana brings extensive experience to The Literacy Cooperative, having led and developed numerous nonprofit organizations. Most recently, she worked with Batelle's NASA Glenn Garrett Morgan Commercialization Initiative, where she helped small businesses evaluate technologies and develop business solutions using NASA resources.

Prior to that, Lana spent four years as a program officer with Development Alternatives and Resource Center, an organizational capacity building nonprofit in Nigeria, where she managed grant programs for The Ford Foundation and provided consulting services on nonprofit board development and program issues. She has also held positions with Redeemer's Business Academy, an entrepreneurial skills building and leadership training nonprofit.

"With her background in nonprofit management and experience in coordinating collaborative programs, Omobola will be an effective leader for The Literacy Cooperative," John Mitterholzer, program officer at The Cleveland Foundation, said. "She has national and international experience in developing small businesses, which will guide her efforts as she establishes and launches the new entity in Greater Cleveland."

Beyond her business experience, Lana has participated and volunteered with national and international learning organizations such as the Center for Business as an Agent of World Benefit, Cleveland Council on World Affairs, School-to-School International, BoardSource and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

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Lana holds a master's degree in business administration and a certificate in nonprofit management from the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University. She also earned a bachelor's degree in international relations from Obafemi Awolowo University in Osun State, Nigeria.

### **The Literacy Cooperative**

The Literacy Cooperative is a joint initiative of The Cleveland, George Gund and Martha Holden Jennings foundations. Working on behalf of the community, the organization seeks to improve literacy levels among children, youth and adults in Greater Cleveland through an expanded and coordinated effort. The Literacy Cooperative will focus on five strategic areas: providing a centralized information and referral center; ensuring that training, curriculum, and instruction techniques are available to providers; establishing evaluation and accountability standards; identifying and securing public and private funding for literacy; and launching a public awareness and outreach campaign.

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