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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***LILAs INITIATIVE CELEBRATED FOR PROMOTING REGIONAL PROGRESS IN
CHALLENGING ECONOMIC TIMES***

CAEL Recognized for Northeast Indiana Workforce Development Success

The Northeast Indiana Workforce Investment Board (NIWIB) presented its “Excellence in Public Policy and Leadership” award to CAEL’s for its Lifelong Learning Account (LiLA) initiative in the region. Given to organizations, businesses and individuals making significant contributions the workforce system, the NIWIB award ceremony took place during the Board’s annual meeting on Friday, July 11, 2003.

“It is important to acknowledge the many partnerships and collaborative efforts that must occur to have a successful workforce development system,” said Patty Weddle, president and CEO of NIWIB. “The difficulties of the economy must not deter us from reinforcing the high quality results we have accomplished.”

“We are honored to be recognized for our ongoing work to support the local economy by improving workforce learning and education in Northeast Indiana,” said Amy Sherman, National LiLAs Director of CAEL. “This project proves that communities can come together to create positive change and enhance the quality of lives of their residents.”

LiLAs are self-managed educational advancement accounts for adult workers. With a LiLA, an individual worker is able to contribute to a savings account that is matched by his/her employer and, in some cases, third parties. Workers can use their LiLA for education and training related activities. LiLAs meet a critical need to fill the gap in public and private financing of ongoing education and training for the current workforce, particularly among low wage workers. Northeast Indiana is the site of CAEL’s second LiLA demonstration project, begun in Fall 2002 in the manufacturing and public sectors and serving an expected 150 participants.

The NIWIB is comprised of 43 board members appointed by 19 local officials from the region. The organization was formed to develop full awareness of community needs through understanding



and appreciation; create better employers and workers; build stronger employers, workers and communities; stimulate opportunities for individual and business success through lifelong learning; and maximize effective use of all funding to enrich jobs and workers.

Other NIWIB award recipients included Fort Wayne, Indiana mayor Graham Richard, representatives from the State of Indiana, Youth Service Providers and WorkOne representatives, all of whom were recognized for their long-standing commitment to workforce development. In addition to the NIWIB, the city of Fort Wayne and the State of Indiana Department of Workforce Development support the LiLA demonstration.

CAEL is a national, non-profit organization that provides adult learners better access to education through partnership with business, government, labor and higher education.

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