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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POLICY COMPETITION AT THE EVANS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AWARDS FOUR PRIZES TO INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS THAT FIGHT POVERTY NATIONWIDE

SEATTLE, WA (October 17, 2012) – The [Nancy Bell Evans Center on Nonprofits & Philanthropy](#) at the [Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington](#), in collaboration with the [Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota](#) and with sponsorship from the [Northwest Area Foundation](#), launched the *Ideas for Action Award* in June 2012, drawing nearly 50 submissions from across the nation. A panel of experts in the field selected four innovative efforts that pursue two significant approaches to poverty reduction: financial asset building and pathways out of poverty. The inaugural winners will be awarded a combined total of \$30,000 of prize funds.

Achievement Awards of \$10,000 each go to:

- [Arkansas Career Pathways](#) marries the state's TANF agency with community colleges seeking students, employers hungry for skilled workers, and women in poverty ready to work and gain the training to fill those jobs. As a result, the skill gap that was making the state's companies less competitive is narrowing, **over 80% of the women attending school as part of the program retained employment at 6 and 12 months**, and the door of opportunity has opened for thousands to walk through.
- [The Financial Clinic](#) helps thousands of people left out or left behind by banks or other financial institutions. Working in conjunction with numerous nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies, the Clinic embeds financial services and asset-building assistance in countless locations where low income people routinely seek help, from homeless shelters to literacy and skills training programs.

Promising Practices awards of \$5,000 each go to:

- [Crittenton Women's Union](#) pioneers new ways to help women struggling in poverty, parenting children alone, and living with the threat of domestic violence—a group often overlooked or avoided because of the complexity of their challenges. The Union has allied with multiple providers to help scores of women get out and stay out of poverty by making

certain critical services are available, with a focus on implementing customized and fully integrated five-year sustainability plans for its clients.

- [The Iowa Credit Union Foundation](#) helps hundreds of struggling people to start and build savings by lining up matching funds, cutting red tape, and delivering additional assistance. The Foundation's broad coalition of partners in government, nonprofit, and business has successfully overcome traditional challenges to the Individual Development Account (IDA) model and proved that IDAs *can* be critically valuable tools in the fight against poverty.

“In the face of economic doldrums unabated since the Great Recession, our aim via this competition was to shine a light on imaginative and concerted efforts pushing back against historically high poverty levels in America,” said *Ideas for Action Award* Co-Chair and Evans School Senior Lecturer [David S. Harrison](#). “We are thrilled to recognize four such initiatives and look forward to building awareness of their ideas and reach of their programs.”

About The Evans School of Public Affairs

The Evans School of Public Affairs is the pre-eminent school of public policy and management in the Northwest, nationally ranked among schools of public affairs.

Please visit <http://evans.uw.edu/centers-projects/nbec/ideas-for-action-award> for more information.

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