



## HERRON SCHOOL *of* ART + DESIGN FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### HERRON SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN AMONG INDIANA FIRST LADY'S CHARITABLE FOUNDATION GRANTEES

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(From left) Karen Pence, Juliet King and Kim Hodges during a reception at the Governor's residence. *Image courtesy Indiana First Lady's Charitable Foundation.*

Herron School of Art and Design's Art Therapy Program has earned a grant from the Indiana First Lady's Charitable Foundation. During a reception on February 9, First Lady Karen Pence characterized Herron as an organization that is doing great work for Hoosier children and families. "It is an honor to recognize them today," she said.

Herron was among 35 grantees announced at the event, held at the Governor's residence.

"When Mike was elected Governor, I was overwhelmed with requests from so many worthy organizations to get involved in their efforts," Karen Pence recalled. "However, it quickly became clear that I couldn't be at every event nor could I champion every cause. That is why I, along with a team of dedicated board members, started the Indiana First Lady's Charitable Foundation [in 2013] as a way to shine a light on the organizations across Indiana who lift up our communities and make our state strong."

**FULLFILLING *the* PROMISE**



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Herron launched its Art Therapy Graduate Degree Program in 2012. It is one of only 34 programs of its kind in the country. It prepares program graduates to take exams to become registered art therapists and licensed mental health counselors. These credentials are the accepted standard nationwide.

Among the requirements for graduation, students complete 1,000 hours of direct care through internships. In a variety of settings, they work with youth and adults suffering with biological, social and psychological challenges. Herron partners with more than 30 organizations throughout the community—including Riley Hospital for Children, Easter Seals Crossroads and Peyton Manning’s Children’s Hospital—to provide the internships.

“Through art therapy, individuals gain an avenue for non-verbal self-expression and communication with a trained professional” said Juliet King, director of art therapy, who represented Herron along with Kim Hodges, director of development, at the reception. “We are grateful for this \$1000 grant from the Indiana First Lady’s Charitable Foundation. Indiana will benefit as our program expands and Herron graduates contribute to Indiana’s workforce.”

The First Lady, who receives no compensation for her role, presented checks ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 to each grantee. The Indiana First Lady’s Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible. For more information, visit [www.IndianaFirstLadysCharitableFoundation.org](http://www.IndianaFirstLadysCharitableFoundation.org).

For more information about Herron’s Art Therapy Program, visit <http://www.herron.iupui.edu/graduate/art-therapy>. -30-