

News Release: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**JOHN BURNETT ELECTED
PRESIDENT OF IRWIN FINANCIAL FOUNDATION**

(Columbus, IN, December 23, 2005) Irwin Financial Foundation announced that John Burnett has been elected to serve as its President.

Mr. Burnett, who will join Irwin Financial Corporation as Director, Community Relations starting January 1, will also assume the role of President of the Irwin Financial Foundation at that time. Currently, Mr. Burnett (49) is the President of the Community Education Coalition, in Columbus, Indiana.

The Irwin Financial Foundation was formed in 1991 and is funded by the Irwin Financial companies to improve the quality of life and strengthen the communities in which they operate.

Will Miller, Chairman and CEO of Irwin Financial said, "We are very fortunate to have attracted John Burnett to lead our community involvement efforts and to serve as President of our corporate foundation. He is a proven leader in the public private partnership that is improving the learning system in Columbus. Through his personal involvement in a wide variety of local community initiatives, he brings a tremendous knowledge of our headquarters community and a strong desire to enhance the other communities where the Irwin companies are located. Our Foundation Board and the Irwin Financial senior management team are looking forward to working with him."

Mr. Burnett was raised in Columbus and is a graduate of Indiana State University with a degree in English. Prior to serving with the Coalition, he was co-owner of the Adecco Personnel Services territory in Buffalo, NY and served in human resource management positions with Cummins Inc. Mr. Burnett and his wife Deborah reside in Columbus and have two daughters, Anne and Katharine.

Irwin® Financial Corporation (<http://www.irwinfinancial.com>) is an interrelated group of specialized financial services companies organized as a bank holding company, with a history tracing to 1871. The Corporation, through its major subsidiaries -- Irwin Mortgage Corporation, Irwin Union Bank, Irwin Home Equity Corporation, and Irwin Commercial Finance -- provides a broad range of financial services to consumers and small businesses in selected markets in the United States and Canada.