Entrepreneur and influential African American leader Mannie Jackson announced the creation of the Mannie Jackson Endowment and Center for the Humanities and $200,000 toward the endowment in April 2012 during a book signing event for his memoir, “Boxcar to Boardrooms,” held on Lewis and Clark’s N.O. Nelson campus in Edwardsville, Ill.

The center will bring together diverse audiences and humanities programming through lectures, readings, dialogues, public service opportunities and humanities programs. The historic Lincoln School will be repurposed to be the future home of the Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities.

“I have faced many societal challenges during my life. The formation of the endowment and center will result in programs that give people a better understanding of societal differences and how we should embrace those differences. Without that understanding, people throughout the world will continue to have conflicts with other cultures,” Jackson said.

**Background**

On July 27, 2011, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) announced Lewis and Clark Community College as one of the first six two-year colleges ever to receive Challenge Grants.

These competitive grants aim to help raise endowments to strengthen humanities programs at community colleges, encourage the development of model humanities programs and curricula, and broaden the base of financial support for humanities on two-year college campuses.

To date, $1.5 million has been raised through the support of the matching grant, Jackson and numerous
community members and businesses. Jackson is also working closely with Lewis and Clark to provide his vision and leadership toward the completion of the building project.

**About Mannie Jackson**

Mannie Jackson was born in a railroad boxcar in Illmo, Mo. before moving to Edwardsville, Ill. and finding statewide high school success on the basketball court. He was recruited to play college basketball at the University of Illinois, where he became the first of the school’s African-American student athletes. He then went on to a playing career for the Harlem Globetrotters before rising through the ranks at Honeywell to become one of the company’s senior corporate officers and one of the most influential African-American corporate executives in the country. Jackson later bought the Harlem Globetrotters and became the nation’s first African-American owner of a global sports and entertainment brand.

Jackson released his memoir, “Boxcar to Boardrooms,” in April 2012 on the college’s N.O. Nelson campus in Edwardsville, Ill., where he also announced the formation of the Mannie Jackson Endowment and Center for the Humanities. An Emmy-nominated documentary film based on Jackson’s book debuted in February 2013 at the Wildey Theatre, also in Edwardsville, Ill.

**Historic Lincoln School**

The Historic Lincoln School is one of the most important remaining, at-risk symbols of Black History in Illinois. From 1912 to 1951, the segregated Lincoln School was the only place where African-American students could attend school. Since then, the building has had different owners, and several historic preservation agencies have declared the building in such a deteriorated state that it may be lost to history. The building was constructed on the site of the original Madison County Courthouse where Edward Coles, the second Governor of Illinois, freed his slaves, and where Abraham Lincoln campaigned and practiced law.

In early 2008, Jackson purchased the school and worked to develop a strategy for its repurposing. It was determined that the Historic Lincoln School would be the perfect, symbolic site to establish the Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities.

For more information, visit www.lc.edu/manniejackson.