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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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POET TO VISIT SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS; DAYLONG WORKSHOP AND PERFORMANCES MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM THE SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, PA – Students in the South Williamsport Area School District will benefit from a daylong visit by poet Brod Bagert on Tuesday, April 25, 2006. The visit is made possible by a grant from the South Williamsport Area School District Foundation.

Bagert is a professional poet who has published numerous books for both children and adults. His children's books include titles like: *Giant Children*, *Chicken Socks and Other Contagious Poems*, and *The Gooch Machine*. His visit to Central Elementary School will include assemblies and workshops for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. He will perform readings of his poetry, and share his process for writing poetry professionally. Bagert's visit has been arranged by South Williamsport Elementary Librarian Manny Tsikitas.

Bagert is from New Orleans. He travels throughout the United States to share his poetry, and his performances reach approximately one hundred thousand people each year. He was a practicing attorney for twenty years before he began his writing career. Bagert began composing poetry when his daughter, Collette, asked him to write a poem that she could recite in class. In 1992, he left his law practice to become a professional poet.

The South Williamsport Area School District Foundation, formed in 2001, is a component fund of the Williamsport-Lycoming Community Foundation. The South Williamsport Area School District Foundation has a community-based Advisory Board that guides the direction of the

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Foundation, and works to build endowed funds that benefit the district's students.

The Williamsport-Lycoming Community Foundation is the founding affiliate of the First Community Foundation of Pennsylvania. The First Community Foundation of Pennsylvania maximizes the power of people and their donated assets to build vibrant communities within Central and Northcentral Pennsylvania now and in the future. The Foundation focuses on sincerity and integrity in all of its relationships - including those with donors, estate and financial planning professionals, trustee banks and investment managers, current and potential grant recipients, government and business leaders, and the many individuals and families living in its service area. For more information on the programs and services offered by the Foundation, or to learn more about ways to make a difference in the community, contact the Foundation office at 570-321-1500.

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