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**Ongoing support puts *Fostering Excellence* goal within reach**

El Segundo Educational Foundation requests support to Spring to the Finish

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (April 17, 2006) – Despite the cold and rainy weather, more than 500 guests attended the El Segundo Educational Foundation's (ESEF) gala event at McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant, contributing generously to push the organization past the \$200,000 milestone in its *Fostering Excellence in Education* campaign. The boost in contributions from the event, held on the last Monday in February, puts the Foundation closer to its pledge to grant \$300,000 to the El Segundo Unified School District (ESUSD) by the end of June.

"With the end of the school year just around the corner, we still have some ground to cover before we achieve our fundraising goal for the '05-'06 school year. El Segundo's students and teachers are counting on our support to fulfill the pledge we've made to them," said Richard Lundquist, ESEF's Chairman of the Board.

The Foundation's pledge to *Foster Excellence in Education* is funding programs to help preserve the high standard of education for which El Segundo schools are known. The Foundation's grant has strengthened the education of ESUSD's 3,200 kindergarten through twelfth grade students this year by pledging to provide \$150,000 for technology training, support, and equipment; \$102,000 for K-12 art and music programs; and \$48,000 for the UCLA Writing Project. These funds are enhancing instruction at all grade levels and are better preparing El Segundo High School students for the rigors of collegiate English courses.

Lundquist said every gift to the Foundation adds to the bottom line, no matter the amount. “Working together we’re making a difference in public education that benefits all students at every grade level. If you have not yet contributed to this campaign, please consider making a gift prior to the end of the school year,” he said.

With two-thirds of the funds raised and only a quarter of the school year remaining, the ESEF is appealing to the community to support this campaign. “El Segundo residents always have taken great pride in the quality of our public schools. The Foundation’s campaigns offer an avenue for community giving that comes with bragging rights, of sorts,” said Susan Truax, member of ESEF’s Board of Directors and parent of three students in the District. “By contributing to the ESEF, each donor can take credit for providing a community-based solution to address a statewide problem, the lack of sufficient funding.”

The ESEF is a California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation and is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501c(3) public charity. Tax-deductible donations may be made online at [www.elsegundoedfoundation.com](http://www.elsegundoedfoundation.com); mailed to ESEF, PO Box 591, El Segundo, CA 90245; or dropped off at the District Office at 641 Sheldon Street. Many local employers provide matching gifts, which can double donations to the ESEF.

“We are grateful to those who already have donated to the campaign and applaud their commitment to our students. We’re asking them to dig a little deeper and we’re appealing to those who haven’t yet given to help us meet this goal,” Truax said.

“Together, one gift at a time, El Segundo’s residents and business owners are making it possible for the District to provide our children with a top-notch education. Talk about your Eagle Pride!”

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