

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Susan Truax  
TruPR  
310/ 640-0550  
STruax@socal.rr.com

### **Foundation pledges to grant \$500,000 to El Segundo public schools**

Contributions to the 2006-2007 *Fostering Excellence in Education* campaign will support ESUSD's technology, writing, art, music, P.E., and robotics programs.

EL SEGUNDO, Calif., September 19, 2006 – The El Segundo Educational Foundation (ESEF) has undertaken the most ambitious fundraising endeavor in its 23-year history by pledging to grant \$500,000 to the El Segundo Unified School District (ESUSD) during the 2006-2007 academic year. Announcement of this extraordinary *Fostering Excellence in Education* fundraising goal follows the successful completion of ESEF's last *Fostering Excellence* campaign, which granted \$300,000 to the El Segundo Unified School District in 2005-2006.

The ESEF's 2006-2007 *Fostering Excellence in Education* campaign will invest \$500,000 in programs that would not be possible without the supplemental grant. Similar to the last campaign, this grant is earmarked for technology, writing, art, and music programs for the District's 3,200 students. This year funding initiatives also will include allocations for elementary physical education and a robotics program for middle and high school students to provide them with advanced instruction in science and engineering and introduce them to college and career options in related fields.

ESEF board member Susan Truax presented a symbolic check--representing last year's grant—to District trustees at ESUSD's September 12 school board meeting. On behalf of the Foundation's Chairman, Richard Lundquist, and her fellow ESEF board members, Truax thanked the community for its tremendous, ongoing support. "Every Corporate Partner, Superintendent's Roundtable member, and individual donor has made our success as a Foundation possible," she said. "Large or small, each contribution to our *Fostering Excellence in Education* campaigns propels us toward our annual fundraising goals."

Truax also praised the efforts of her fellow ESEF board members who she said share the community's commitment to *Fostering Excellence* in El Segundo schools. "Throughout the year the corporate and community representatives on the ESEF Board of Directors are more than generous with their time and talent, as well as with their

personal, professional, and business resources. The community has indicated its strong desire to invest in our schools. Everyone wants to be part of the solution, which is to help preserve the high standard of education for which El Segundo schools are known,” she said. “Thankfully for our students, each year the Ed. Foundation paves the way, turning our collective desire into reality.”

The California Department of Education recently published the 2006 rankings for unified schools districts, which are based on last spring’s API scores. ESUSD’s impressive scores placed it in the top ten unified school districts in Los Angeles County with the second-highest growth reported county-wide. “The Foundation’s ability to provide significant grants to the ESUSD each year is a team effort, one the District continues to credit with strengthening its instructional programs. ESUSD’s rank among the state’s top performing school districts proves our students are getting a tremendous return on the community’s investment,” Truax said.

As in the past, fulfilling this year’s \$500,000 pledge to the ESUSD will be made possible through the community’s generosity. The Foundation will introduce new funding incentives later this fall to help generate the increased level of support. “We’re counting on these new programs to energize ESEF’s loyal supporters and motivate interest from new donors,” Truax said.

Through the community’s ongoing support, the ESEF has granted more than \$768,000 to the ESUSD in the last three years alone. Local residents and businesses are encouraged to continue the Foundation’s legacy of *Fostering Excellence* in El Segundo schools by making tax-deductible donations online at [www.elsegundoedfoundation.org](http://www.elsegundoedfoundation.org); by mail to ESEF, PO Box 591, El Segundo; or in person at the District Office, 641 Sheldon Street. Many employers match charitable contributions, which can double a gift at no additional cost to the donor.

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#### PHOTO CAPTION:

Community support for the ESEF continues to Foster Excellence in El Segundo schools. Foundation board member Susan Truax, third from right, presents an oversized check representing last year’s grant to ESUSD board members (left to right) Bill Watkins, student representative Megan Roy, Robin Funk, Chris Powell, and Mike Briney.