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Community Donors pledge to *Foster Excellence in Education*
Superintendent's Roundtable members spark a flurry of support
for ESEF's fundraising campaign

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (January 18, 2007) – The El Segundo Educational Foundation received an infusion of donations to its most ambitious fundraising endeavor yet, the 2006-2007 *Fostering Excellence in Education* campaign, thanks to more than 30 residents, service organizations and small businesses that recently have renewed or joined the Superintendent's Roundtable, a growing list of \$1,000 contributors.

A Fall Dinner for ESEF's current and prospective Roundtable members was a resounding success, prompting many of the 100 guests in attendance to contribute that evening and in the days that followed. The flurry of donations included pledges from ten members who have committed annual gifts to the Foundation of \$2,000 or more, becoming charter donors of the Platinum Superintendent's Roundtable, a new giving level announced at the event.

The Superintendent's Roundtable Fall Dinner was hosted in October by Occasions of El Segundo in its historic Richmond Street venue, a perfect setting for the Superintendent's Roundtable event and one of the first large gatherings held by the new owners of the Garden Wedding and Special Events business. Despite their recent acquisition and an incomplete kitchen renovation, the new Occasions staff provided a specially prepared menu enjoyed by the Foundation's guests.

Co-owner Audrey O'Conner said they had to come up with a "Plan B" for the event, which involved preparing food in the kitchen of one of El Segundo's premiere restaurants, Chef Hannes on Main Street. "We were most appreciative of Hannes' kind offer to use his cooking facilities for the Foundation's event. His generosity and community spirit was such a nice way to welcome us to town," said O'Conner, who purchased Occasions last fall with her brother and sister-in-law Stephen and Teryl O'Connor and friends Kathy and Keith Pippard. None the wiser, ESEF's guests enjoyed a delicious variety of culinary selections served from

beautifully displayed food stations set up throughout Occasions' inviting dining room, courtyard and garden areas.

"The Fall Dinner received rave reviews from the Foundation's guests, and we are so grateful to Occasions for their generous hospitality," said Chris Sherrill, Chairman of ESEF's Community Giving Committee. "Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to try it all, especially the martini mashers and Belgian Chocolate fondue stations, which had many repeat visitors. Our members agreed it was the best Superintendent's Roundtable event to date and, judging by the jumpstart it gave to our *Fostering Excellence* campaign, the evening was a huge success!"

The ESEF's '06-'07 goal is to grant \$500,000 to the El Segundo Unified School District by the end of June. Similar to its last *Fostering Excellence in Education* campaign which provided \$300,000 to the ESUSD in 2005-2006, this year's grant will fund technology, writing, art and music programs at all grade levels, with additional resources for elementary physical education, as well as a robotics program designed to attract El Segundo's fourth through twelfth grade students to careers in aerospace, science and engineering.

"Hundreds of individuals, families, service clubs, businesses and corporations contribute each year to the ESEF, enabling our pooled gifts to make a real impact on the education of 3,200 ESUSD students," Sherrill said. "We're encouraged by support from our Superintendent's Roundtable members and the community's response to our year-end appeal letter. Sherrill said the ESEF has launched a "Boost Your School" challenge to ESUSD families that promises to keep the campaign on track to reach this year's goal. "*Fostering Excellence in Education* really is a team effort," she said. "We anticipate the community will continue to demonstrate its tremendous support for El Segundo public schools by contributing to the Foundation during our '06-'07 campaign."

About the Superintendent's Roundtable

Established in 2002, the Superintendent's Roundtable is a special group of ESEF donors who share a strong commitment to provide ongoing support for El Segundo public schools. Benefits of SR membership include private receptions, priority reservations to Foundation events and special recognition in printed materials throughout the year.

Superintendent's Roundtable donors include ESEF directors, past and present school board members, administrators, teachers, parents, alumni, small business owners and other education advocates who make annual contributions of \$1,000, \$2,000 or more to the El Segundo Educational Foundation. Gifts from SR members accounted for more than a third of the Foundation's 2005-2006 *Fostering Excellence in Education* grant to the ESUSD.

About the ESEF

The El Segundo Educational Foundation supports El Segundo Unified School District students through annual grants that enhance instructional programs and improve the quality of their public school education. Local businesses, corporations, parents, educators, alumni and residents who give to the Foundation form a partnership to *Foster Excellence in Education* by enriching the learning experience for El Segundo's kindergarten through twelfth grade students. Contributions to the ESEF can be mailed to P.O. Box 591, El Segundo, CA 90245 or made online at www.elsegundoedfoundation.org. Call 310-615-2650, x229 for more information.

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