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**Gala event at McCormick & Schmick's to benefit El Segundo schools**  
*Make reservations today for the Ed. Foundation's popular fundraiser on February 27*

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (January 31, 2006) – The El Segundo Educational Foundation (ESEF) will hold a gala fundraising event to benefit El Segundo public schools on Monday, February 27 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant in El Segundo. Guests will spend the evening mingling with other supporters among a fabulous selection of seafood appetizers, oysters on the half shell, perfectly-roasted barons of beef, fresh fruit, cooked-to-order pasta, and other fare prepared by the restaurant's Executive Chef Paul Avila and his staff.

The El Segundo Educational Foundation's evening at McCormick & Schmick's represents the cornerstone of its 2005-2006 \$300,000 fundraising campaign, "*Fostering Excellence in Education*." This marks the fifth time the restaurant has opened its doors for the Foundation's signature fundraiser, which has been held every other year since 1998. "We're most appreciative for the community's enthusiastic support for our evenings at McCormick & Schmick's," said Barbara Briney, who chairs the Foundation's Event Committee. "The event has become a favorite with teachers, parents, and other supporters who have faithfully attended over the years to raise money for our schools."

Briney said this year the fundraiser promises to be just as grand. "We're planning an evening for our guests to enjoy each others' company, eat great food, and participate in our silent auction and raffle drawing. Our wide variety of raffle and auction prizes has always made for a fun-filled evening. We've already received some lovely donations, including 2006 Pacific Theater movie passes for two, a round of golf for three at the Wilshire Country Club, and VIP tickets for four to an LA Avengers game. But of course we will gladly accept more," she said.

Businesses and community members who would like to contribute silent auction or raffle prizes may contact Cristina O'Brien at 310-640-1520 for more information. In return for their support, donors' names will be displayed at the event, featured in the Foundation's "Thank You" ads, and included in its widely distributed annual report.

Reservations for ESEF's Evening at McCormick & Schmick's are \$50 per person and raffle tickets are priced at \$5 each or six for \$25. Raffle winners need not be present to win. To make reservations, purchase raffle tickets, or donate to the *Fostering Excellence in Education* campaign, please visit [www.elsegundoedfoundation.org](http://www.elsegundoedfoundation.org) or mail payment to the ESEF, P.O. Box 591, El Segundo, CA 90245. Reservations and raffle tickets also can be purchased at El Segundo school offices, by calling 310-615-2650, ext. 229, or at the event. Complimentary event tickets will be mailed to the Foundation's Superintendent's Roundtable members and Corporate Partners in appreciation for their financial contributions to the *Fostering Excellence in Education* campaign. Complimentary tickets must be presented at the door for admission.

"The El Segundo Educational Foundation and the children of the El Segundo Unified School District thank the community in advance for its support of this event. Together we're making a difference in our schools," Briney said.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant is located at 2101 Rosecrans Avenue at Nash Street in El Segundo. Parking will be complimentary for event attendees, who are asked to enter through the building's courtyard, as the valet parking entrance will not be open that evening.

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