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Foundation Continues to Foster Excellence in Education

*Community support makes a difference in helping
El Segundo schools provide an excellent education*

EL SEGUNDO, Calif., November 28, 2005 – The El Segundo Educational Foundation (ESEF) continues to support El Segundo's schools through its 2005-2006 *Fostering Excellence in Education* campaign. The ESEF will raise funds during this campaign to provide \$300,000 in grants to the El Segundo Unified School District (ESUSD) in support of technology, writing, art, and music programs. The Foundation's pledge to *Foster Excellence in Education* will fund programs in the School District that will help preserve the high standard of education for which El Segundo schools are known.

The El Segundo Unified School District was recently recognized as one of the excellent school districts in California. Standard and Poor's named the ESUSD an "academic outperformer," making it one of only 29 districts of over 500 in the state to achieve such a distinction. As the ESUSD and El Segundo's students strive to continue to outperform, the Foundation continues to support these efforts by raising funds that will help *Foster Excellence in Education*.

"We have increased our fundraising goal each year in response to the increased need resulting from reduced state funding, and we continue to be encouraged by the community's generous support for our campaigns," said Richard Lundquist, Chairman of the ESEF. "The success of our \$140,000 Pledge to the Arts and \$250,000 Bridge the Gap campaigns demonstrates that local businesses and residents truly have formed a partnership with the Educational Foundation to provide financial support for our outstanding schools."

When the fundraising goal of \$300,000 has been met, the *Fostering Excellence in Education* grant will be funded to the ESUSD and apportioned: \$150,000 for technology training, support, and equipment; \$102,000 for K-12 art and music programs; and \$48,000 to fund teacher participation in UCLA's nationally-acclaimed Writing Project,

which will enhance teaching methods to better prepare El Segundo high school graduates for the rigors of collegiate English courses.

“By funding these specific areas, the Foundation enables the District to continue providing our students a well-rounded education,” said Bruce Auld, ESUSD Superintendent. “We’ve made the music and art programs our priority for Foundation funds in the past because we recognize their value to students.” Auld confirmed that maintaining a balanced curriculum and strengthening the writing skills of our students will support the District’s goal to continue providing an excellent education to El Segundo children. “The Ed. Foundation’s funding initiative supports academic excellence throughout the ESUSD and, ideally, will affect every child in every school,” he said. “We are grateful for the community’s support of the Foundation. Rest assured these grants really are making a difference in the programs we can offer our students.”

Colorfully painted *Fostering Excellence in Education* signs have been posted in front of all four ESUSD schools. The Foundation will add ‘books’ to the signs to celebrate progress as each \$50,000 fundraising milestone is reached. “The signs bring visibility to the campaign and encourage the community to join us in our commitment to excellence,” said Lundquist. “Every donation matters, no matter the amount. The success of any Ed. Foundation campaign does not hinge on a single gift. It’s the combined effort of residents and businesses that makes the difference.”

To date in this campaign, the Foundation has raised more than \$50,000 in individual and corporate support. The El Segundo Educational Foundation asks the community to contribute today to help *Foster Excellence in Education* in El Segundo schools. Many companies match employee charitable contributions, which is an easy way to double a contribution at no additional cost. Tax-deductible donations can be made online at www.elsegundoedfoundation.org; mailed to ESEF, PO Box 591, El Segundo; or dropped off at the District Office, 641 Sheldon Street.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: The colorful *Fostering Excellence in Education* signs at each school make a great photo op, with or without students in the picture. ESUSD will supply a photo upon request.