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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct. 18, 2006

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ECMC Foundation and the Virginia Department of Education sponsor “Realizing the College Dream” curriculum guide trainings for high school counselors

More than 250 Virginia high school counselors attended a full-day training session of ECMC Foundation’s college access curriculum, “Realizing the College Dream.” The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) partnered with ECMC Foundation on two training sessions: Oct. 10, in Richmond, Va. and Oct. 12, in Blacksburg, Va. These sessions offered every secondary counselor in Virginia an opportunity to receive this valuable curriculum and workshop guide. Developed for middle and high school students and their parents, the guide conveys the value of higher education and demystifies the process for first-generation college-going students.

Some representative comments from the counselors about this interactive training include:

“The binder provided by ECMC Foundation is a great resource and guide for a comprehensive college access curriculum. The presentation was exhilarating. I appreciated the opportunity to ask specific questions about how to put the material into practice.”

“The engaging presenters translated difficult information into a format that both students and parents can understand.”

“Great slide show presentation, high energy staff, very fast paced. I loved the video opening music and photos. The pre- and posttest evaluations are super! This is great information – I appreciate it!”

(more)

VDOE's Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Billy K. Cannaday, Jr., and ECMC Foundation President, Jennifer Lea Wise, welcomed the counselors to the Richmond training. Attendees participated in a full-day, interactive session on how to use the guide to promote higher education for low-income, first-generation college-going students. The trainings were led by: Johnnie Hill-Marsh, Upward Bound Director and EEO/Affirmative Action Officer, LeMoyne College; Steven Baumann, Director, Learning Resources, University of Utah School of Medicine; Rebecca Dukstein, Associate Director, Educational Talent Search, University of Kansas; Jessica Genco, Director of Career Services and Associate Professor, Mountain Empire Community College; and Adeluisa G. Judal, consultant, trainer, 10-year Federal TRIO Programs veteran, and Northwest Association of Special Programs (NASP) Past President.

Sponsored by ECMC Foundation and developed by the University of California, Berkeley's Center for Educational Outreach, "Realizing the College Dream" includes 10 lessons and workshops that can be used in a variety of settings (classroom, after-school, and faith- and community-based organizations), and are geared for youth in middle school and high school as well as parents, family members, community college students, and other adult learners. Instructional strategies are hands-on and interactive, and the lessons are aligned with national curriculum standards in writing, mathematics, social studies, and technology.

The primary content of the guide is divided into three sections:

- Thinking of Yourself as a College-Bound Student: Lessons and Workshops for Students
- Debunking the Myth that "You Can't Afford College:" Lessons and Workshops for Students
- Getting Involved and Staying Involved: Workshops and Presentations for Families of College-Bound Youth (available in both English and Spanish)

The "Realizing the College Dream" curriculum guide also can be downloaded in its entirety from the ECMC Foundation Web site at www.ecmcfoundation.org.

ECMC Foundation will pay for trainings of 100 plus high school counselors and/or college access professionals. If your school or organization is interested in scheduling a training, please contact March Kessler at 866.FDN.ECMC or mkessler@ecmc.org.

About ECMC Foundation

ECMC Foundation, an ECMC Group company, helps underserved and disadvantaged populations further their educational goals. Through innovative outreach programs, we convey to students the importance of completing high school, and continue our mission by developing and distributing programs that focus on college access, retention, and success. ECMC Foundation partners with government agencies, educational institutions, and other foundations to make the dream of higher education a reality. ECMC Foundation's affiliate, Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC), also serves the higher education industry as the designated Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) student loan guarantor for the Commonwealth of Virginia and state of Oregon. For more program and service information, visit www.ecmcfoundation.org and www.ecmc.org.

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