



ECMC Foundation is an ECMC Group company.

News Release

CONTACT:
March Kessler
mkessler@ecmc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 21, 2005

ECMC Foundation sponsors “Realizing the College Dream” curriculum guide training at SWASAP TRIO Conference

ECMC Foundation sponsored a full-day training session of its college access curriculum, “Realizing the College Dream,” at the annual Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs (SWASAP) Conference in Albuquerque, N.M. Nov. 15. SWASAP is the Southwest regional organization that represents federal TRIO programs from Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico.

“Realizing the College Dream” is a curriculum and workshop guide for middle and high school students and their parents that conveys the value of higher education and the financial aid opportunities available. Attendees participated in a full-day, interactive session on how to incorporate the guide into their college access programs. The training team, led by Judy Coburn, Counseling and Consulting, LPC, Laramie, Wyo., included: Steve Baumann, Director, Learning Resources, University of Utah School of Medicine; Rebecca Dukstein, Associate Director, Educational Talent Search, University of Kansas; Johnnie Hill-Marsh, Upward Bound Director and EEO/Affirmative Action Officer, LeMoyne College; Adeluisa G. Judal, consultant, trainer, 10-year TRIO veteran and former NASP President; and Drey Kharem, Director, Student Support Services, Penn State University.

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.

Participant comments include:

“My students would enjoy participating in all the activities.”

“This is a complete package. I won’t have to look around and pull from different resources. The information I search for throughout the year to help my students is now in one place.”

“Best conference presentation I’ve ever attended.”

If you are interested in training 100 or more college access professionals in your school or organization, contact March Kessler at 866.FDN.ECMC or mkessler@ecmc.org.

ECMC Foundation exists to inform the public of policies and programs providing financial assistance to students, and to seek opportunities to help currently underserved or disadvantaged student populations further their educational goals. ECMC Foundation operates under the umbrella of ECMC Group, a nonprofit holding company with affiliated for-profit and nonprofit corporations. Headquartered in St. Paul, Minn., with offices in Eugene, Ore., Santa Fe, N.M., and Richmond, Va., ECMC Group fulfills its mission, Helping Educate America, by providing a wide range of services to students, schools, lenders and the U.S. Department of Education.