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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Character Education Conference Paves the Road to Education Reform, Honors Local Schools

Program Emphasizes Academic Integrity, School Climate, Work Force Readiness

WASHINGTON, DC, Oct. 15, 2009 —What works in education reform will be among the issues addressed at the Character Education Partnership's National Forum on Character Education, in Alexandria, VA, Oct. 29-31. This world-class, local conference will feature a range of rich breakout sessions on character education, social-emotional learning, civic education, service-learning, 21st century skills, bullying prevention, and four notable keynote speakers.

Dr. John M. Templeton, Jr., of the Templeton Foundation will speak on virtue and generosity. Noted author Sean Covey will address how leadership skills can be developed even in very young students.

This conference presents the educator, administrator, public and business leader, or concerned member of the public with a powerful opportunity to discover the latest and best practices in a range of relevant educational arenas. Schools and young people today face challenge after challenge: bullying and violence; breaches of academic integrity; poor role models perpetuated in the media; and teachers caught between the needs of their students and the demands of a test-based system.

Janice Stoodley, director of CEP's National Schools of Character award program, said, "After attending CEP's Forum for the past 10 years, I can truly say this year's event is going to be the best one yet for providing participants with concrete and inspiring strategies for helping them make a difference in educating for character."

Nine schools and one district from across the country will be honored as National Schools of Character (NSOC) at a luncheon on Oct. 30. Winners will receive a stipend to be used toward furthering their character education initiative. Local schools to be recognized as NSOC finalists and honorable mentions include: Lyles-Crouch Traditional

Academy, Alexandria, VA; Amelia County Elementary School, Amelia Court House, VA; Arundel High School, Gambrills, MD; and Ocean City Elementary School, Ocean City, MD.

Over 120 schools will also be recognized for developing and implementing Promising Practices in character education on Oct. 31. Local Promising Practices winners include The Arts and Technology Academy Public Charter School, Washington, DC; Arundel High School, Gambrills, MD; and Leonard Gereau Center for Applied Technology and Career Exploration, Rocky Mount, VA. Dr. Eric Greitens, a former Navy SEAL and White House fellow and founder of the nonprofit The Mission Continues will keynote at the Promising Practices award ceremony on the power of service.

The Character Education Partnership is proud to sponsor this grassroots event that encourages educators to inspire the next generation of caring, committed, ethical and engaged young men and women.

About CEP

Character Education Partnership advocates for quality, comprehensive character education in our nation's schools. It is a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit coalition of organizations and individuals based in Washington, DC. CEP is led by business and educational leaders who are dedicated to the advancement of quality character education as a key component of positive school reform, improved academic achievement, responsible citizenship and the pursuit of one's best work in school and all areas of life.

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