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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

General Colin Powell Receives American Patriot of Character Award

Civil servant and retired Army General to be honored for outstanding service to America, commitment to ethical conduct

WASHINGTON, DC, Oct. 23, 2009 — General Colin Powell, former US Secretary of State, will be honored with the first ever “American Patriot of Character Award” presented by The Character Education Partnership during their 16th annual National Forum on Character Education, in Alexandria, VA, Oct. 29-31. Gen. Powell will receive the award and make brief remarks before the start of the National Schools of Character awards luncheon and ceremony.

Each year, the American Patriot of Character Award will be presented to one American citizen whose leadership exemplifies the very best of our nation’s founding principles. The award recognizes individuals for not only great success in their chosen field, but for also upholding the highest ethical standards in service of the common good.

Joe Mazzola, CEP’s executive director, said “We are honored to have General Powell as the first recipient of this award. He is a remarkable public servant who has truly made a positive difference in our nation. Gen Powell is also a shining example of integrity for young people, and all American citizens, to emulate.”

In addition to Gen. Powell’s being recognized, the National Forum on Character Education will feature a range of rich breakout sessions on character development in schools, social-emotional learning, civic education, service-learning, 21st century skills, bullying prevention, academic integrity, improving school climate and more.

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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