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For Immediate Release

**SCHOOLS ACROSS NORTH AMERICA RECOGNIZED FOR 'PROMISING PRACTICES'
IN CHARACTER EDUCATION**

'Top 200' practices selected for unique and effective school reform efforts

October 31, 2009 . . . Alexandria, Virginia – Schools and districts from around the United States and four foreign countries received a record number of awards for “Promising Practices” in character education at the 16th National Forum on Character Education hosted by the Character Education Partnership.

Winning practices included creative ways to help students give back to their schools and communities, raise academic expectations and achievement, decrease bullying, increase tolerance, and solve conflicts peacefully.

Dr. Eric Greitens, Senior Fellow at the Truman School of Public Affairs and the Founder and Chairman of The Mission Continues, addressed the crowd of 600 educators gathered to honor this year’s winners. He spoke about the impact of asking veterans who have returned from active duty to continue to serve their communities.

“Eric inspired us with his example and his work among wounded veterans,” said Lara Maupin, CEP’s National Schools of Character associate director. “His emotional keynote was a fitting prelude to recognizing educators who serve their communities every day and teach their students to do the same.”

The Character Education Partnership (CEP) gives the annual awards for unique and specific exemplary practices that encourage the ethical, social, and academic growth of K–12 students through character education. By publicizing these awards, CEP recognizes educators for their efforts and encourages others to learn from and even replicate these successful initiatives.

This year, CEP received a record 368 applications from 274 public and private schools and districts. Schools in Missouri submitted the most applications and received the most awards, followed by New Jersey and Florida. A record 170 schools and districts received 200 awards. Of that number, 130 traveled to the Washington, D.C. area to receive their awards in person.

The Promising Practices awards program is administered by CEP and made possible by generous support from the John Templeton Foundation, Sanford N. McDonnell, The Pieper Family Foundation, and Lockheed Martin Corporation. Based in Washington, D.C., CEP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, nonsectarian coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to helping schools develop people of good character for a just and compassionate society. To learn more about CEP and its national awards programs, visit www.character.org.

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