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For Immediate Release

SCHOOLS ACROSS NORTH AMERICA RECOGNIZED FOR ‘PROMISING PRACTICES’ IN CHARACTER EDUCATION

Character Education Partnership selects winners to be honored in October

June 2, 2008 . . . Washington, DC – Over 130 schools and districts from around the United States as well as from Canada and Mexico will receive 155 awards for “Promising Practices” in character education.

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 hopes to recognize educators for their efforts and to encourage others to learn from and even replicate these successful initiatives.

This year, CEP received a record 279 applications from 217 public and private schools and districts. Schools in Missouri submitted the most applications and will receive the most awards, followed by New Jersey and Florida.

CEP will give the awards at the 15th Annual National Forum on Character Education to be held October 17-19, 2008, in Arlington, Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C. In addition, winning practices will be featured in CEP’s annual National Schools of Character publication and on the CEP Web site.

Winning practices included creative ways to engage parents and community members, encourage student voice and leadership, and offer students opportunities to serve others. “These educators have found exciting new ways to help and encourage all members of their school communities to be more involved and more caring,” stated Lara Maupin, program coordinator. “The results are kids that feel connected and are therefore more ready and able to learn.”

The Promising Practices awards program is administered by CEP and made possible by generous support from the John Templeton Foundation, the UAW-GM Center for Human Resources, Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation, and Lockheed Martin. 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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