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Caldwell Public Library, Recipient of FRONTLINE/World Grant, Teams with Caldwell College Business Division to Bring Social Entrepreneurs Series and Teach For America to College

Caldwell College to Host Film and Speakers Focusing on Social Entrepreneurs and Spirituality and Work

Caldwell Public Library One of 50 Public Libraries Nationwide Selected to Receive Grant from Social Entrepreneurs Series and American Library Association

Caldwell, NJ – September 30, 2008 The Caldwell Public Library and the Business Division at Caldwell College today announced that they are partnering to bring Teach For America - Newark to the college this October in the form of a film and speaker series on social entrepreneurship. The result of a grant won by the Caldwell Public Library from the FRONTLINE/World Social Entrepreneurs Film Program and the American Library Association, the library and college are working together to host a number of events at the college, highlighting the issue of Social Entrepreneurship and the Teach For America Program.

One of 50 libraries selected nationwide and one of only three in New Jersey to receive the \$500 grant that supplies the film and funds necessary to host the viewing and at least one other related program, the Caldwell Public Library teamed with Caldwell College to host a film screening and panel discussion. The screening will take place at the College, and the panel discussion will follow two weeks later at the Caldwell Community Center.

“The library strives to be a positive catalyst in the community, bringing people and programs together,” said Karen Kleppe-Lembo, Director of the Caldwell Public Library. “The Social Entrepreneurs Film Program seemed the perfect way to bring the opportunities and value of Teach For America (“TFA”) to our town, showing people not only the value of such a program but also the opportunities that exist within

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it. Partnering with Caldwell College to bring the program here seemed the obvious choice. I am especially hopeful that college students as well as area high school students will avail themselves of these exciting programs – and meet Teach for America – Newark teachers, ask questions, and consider this as a future aspiration.”

Named one of *Business Week's* “Best Places to Launch a Career”, Teach For America’s mission is to build the movement to eliminate educational inequity by enlisting the nation's most promising future leaders in the effort. This year, the highly competitive program selected 3,000 college graduates out of 25,000 applicants to teach in urban areas.

The film screening, a one-hour compilation of PBS FRONTLINE/World Social Entrepreneurs stories, will be held at the college on Wednesday October 15, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. The film features documentaries on innovative social entrepreneurs from around the world. Teens, college students and the public are encouraged to attend. The free event is open to the public and will take place in the College’s Alumni Theatre.

“The Caldwell College Division of Business is delighted to be partnering with the Caldwell Public Library,” said Dr. Bernard O’Rourke, Associate Dean for the Business Division of Caldwell College. “The mission of social entrepreneurship fits in well with Caldwell College. Our Dominican educational tradition places great value in having students consider being change agents for society by identifying and solving social problems.”

In addition, a panel discussion on social entrepreneurship will take place on Wednesday, October 29, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Caldwell Community Center. The panel includes Virginia H. Rich, J.D., Associate Professor, Caldwell College, Business Division and the College’s Scholars Program; Heather Calverase, Executive Director of Teach For America – Newark; Mike Larson, Director of Development of Teach for America – Newark; and at least four Teach For America - Newark teachers, including Kevin Kilgore, Meredith Foote, niece of author Donna Foote, “Relentless Pursuit: A Year in the Trenches of Teach For America,” Laura Palma, and Taiisha Swinton. This event which will take place during Caldwell College’s “Career Week” is also free, and open to the public.

Panelist Kilgore received his Bachelor of Science degree in Diplomacy and International Relations from Seton Hall University and saw great success as a Teach For America teacher. "One of my many bright and passionate students was Hakim. Unfortunately, Hakim failed third grade the year prior, not passing a single subject. At the start of the school year, Hakim entered the classroom with little hope and no confidence. By December, however, he became the star of the class with students referring to him as the "Little Teacher." Hakim saw his grades in math burgeon and as his confidence grew so did his hope. . By the end of the year, Hakim earned a 263/300 in math on the NJ ASK 3, an 83 point jump from his score the previous year! He had the third highest score in third grade. I still speak to Hakim and his family. His heart, mind, and spirit have become a part of who I am both as a teacher and as a person."

In addition and to complement the events, Dr. Margaret Benefiel, Ph.D., author of "Soul of a Leader: Finding Your Path to Fulfillment and Success," a follow-up to her book "Soul at Work: Spiritual Leadership in Organizations", will speak at Caldwell College on Tuesday, November 11, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. Both works focus on the intersection between spirituality and modern life. Dr. Benefiel is a Quaker minister and professor at Andover Newton Theological Seminary in Boston.

For more information, please contact Karen Kleppe-Lembo at (973) 226-2837; klembo@caldwellpl.org.

***FRONTLINE/World** is the award-winning PBS international news magazine that turns its lens on the global community, covering countries and cultures rarely seen on American television. The Social Entrepreneurs Series features the stories of people whose ideas and organizations create new and sustainable markets and services that benefit underserved communities everywhere in the developing world. This pilot library program seeks to connect communities to the concept of social entrepreneurship and to promote dialogue on a local level. Funding for the library program is provided by the PBS Foundation through a grant from the Skoll Foundation.*

*Established in 1992, the **ALA Public Programs Office** has an exemplary track record of developing library programming initiatives, including the acclaimed reading and discussion series "Let's Talk About It," film discussion programs on humanities themes, traveling exhibitions, LIVE! @ your library® and other programs. Recently, it has established the Cultural Communities Fund, an endowment created to help all types of libraries across the country bring communities together through cultural programming (www.ala.org/ccf). More than 10,000 libraries and at least 10 million individuals have participated in library programming initiatives supported by the Public Programs Office. For more information about the ALA Public Programs Office, visit www.ala.org/publicprograms.*

*The **Caldwell Public Library**, an Andrew Carnegie Library dedicated in 1917, celebrated its 90th birthday in October 2007. Its mission is to provide its diverse community with a wide array of literary, cultural, historical, educational and social resources through personal service and innovative programs utilizing a range of learning technologies in a welcoming environment. www.caldwellpl.org.*

Founded in 1939 by the Sisters of Saint Dominic, **Caldwell College** is a Catholic, co-ed, four year liberal arts institution offering 28 undergraduate degrees and 20 graduate programs. The College is located on a beautiful 70-acre campus in suburban Caldwell, NJ. Caldwell College provides students with a supportive community, a student/faculty ratio of 13 to 1, excellence in teaching and innovative learning environments. For further information about Caldwell College visit www.caldwell.edu.

By building a corps of our country's most promising future leaders who commit two years to teach in low-income communities, **Teach For America** has critical short-term and long-term impacts. During their two-year commitment, corps members go above and beyond traditional expectations to ensure that more students growing up today have the educational opportunities they deserve. Over the long term, Teach For America has an impact on two levels: 1) we build a unique pipeline of leadership for education and social reform by changing the career paths of our alumni, the majority of whom remain in education or in related efforts in low-income communities; and 2) we influence national priorities and the prevailing ideology by acting as a catalyst for alumni leaders who assume positions of influence in all sectors and who have the rare perspective and commitment that comes from their teaching experience. In Newark this year, we are pleased to welcome the largest cohort of incoming corps members that we've ever placed here. Right now, 57 first-year teachers are joining 31 second-year teachers to collectively impact over 7,400 students in Newark's public schools. For more information about Teach for America visit www.teachforamerica.org.

Panelists

Heather Calverase

Calverase is an Executive Director for the Newark region, Teach For America, Inc. Calverase joined Teach For America in 2007 after seven years as a center and area director for Kaplan Test Prep, where she witnessed the realities and future implications of the achievement gap first-hand in her work with students and staff across five states. She was recognized within Kaplan for posting rapid annual growth in the West Los Angeles market and for substantially expanding the company's Pittsburgh market, more than tripling the company's revenues in that region. She has also worked for the Council of State Governments as a policy coordinator in the council's environmental and telecommunications policy research centers. During her time at the council, she earned an M.B.A from the University of Phoenix. She also holds a B.S. from Youngstown State University and an M.S. from the University of Kentucky.

Mike Larson

Larson is the Development Manager in the Teach for America Newark regional office. He grew up in Colorado Springs, CO and attended the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he received his BA in Mathematics and Physics. Graduating in 2005, Larson joined the Teach For America corps in Camden, NJ where he taught 9th grade Algebra I for two years at Woodrow Wilson High School. He led his students to significant academic gains towards state-standards based proficiencies in Math and was honored with an Excellence in Teaching Award upon completion of his second year. Larson is currently pursuing a master's degree in Public Administration, with a concentration on financial management, at New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

Virginia H. Rich

B.S. Le Moyne College, M.A. Fairleigh Dickinson University, J.D. Wake Forest University
Virginia H. Rich, J.D., is an Associate Professor at Caldwell College in the Business Division and the College's Scholars Program.

Meredith Foote

Originally from Ardmore, P.A., Foote received her Bachelor of Arts in English from Haverford College and taught in Newark, N.J. for Teach For America in 2006. She currently teaches tenth grade English and Language Arts at Technology High School, Newark, N.J.

Laura Palma

Palma grew up in Hopatcong, N.J. and attended Elizabethtown College where she obtained a Bachelor Degree in Elementary and Early Childhood Education. She is currently teaching first grade at North Star Academy Elementary School.

Taiisha Swinton

Originally from New York, N.Y., Swinton received her degree in English – Secondary Education from Susquehanna University before joining Teach For America. Teach For America meshed her long-term goals of civil rights activism with her major in education.

Kevin Kilgore

Born in Atlanta, Georgia, Kilgore received his Bachelor of Science degree in Diplomacy and International Relations from Seton Hall University.

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