

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Huntington Beach Educational Foundation's Spring Update 2009

The Huntington Beach Educational Foundation, founded in 1987, benefits the 7000 students within the Huntington Beach City School District. It provides necessary funding for innovative educational programs and state of the art technology. The Foundation helps bridge the gap between what the school district has and what it needs. This year, the Huntington Beach Educational Foundation will host its First Annual Excellence in Education Awards Reception on Thursday, April 21, 2009, to recognize award winning students, teachers, and support personnel of the Huntington Beach City School District. The reception will honor the 2009 HBEF Scholar Squad, the 2009 HBEF Educators of the Year, and the award recipients of the 2009 HBEF Teacher Grant Program. The HBEF Scholar Squad is a new program developed to promote excellence in our students' behaviors, attitudes, and achievements. Teachers will nominate one student from their class they feel best represent scholarly attributes. Two students from each elementary school and three students from each of the district's middle schools will be chosen among the nominees to receive the honor of being named to the 2009 HBEF Scholar Squad. Our Educator of the Year award recognizes the critical role professional educators play in our community and the lives of our children. One certificated teacher and one support personnel, nominated by their peers and community members, will receive this honor. The 2009 HBEF Teacher Grant recipients will also be awarded at this year's reception. Teacher grants, written by teachers of the Huntington Beach City School District, directly benefit the students in ways that enhance their critical thinking skills, meet the needs of those identified as At-Risk, ensure access to technology, and promote success as life-long scholars and learners.

Funds earmarked for the teacher grant program are raised through HBEF membership, the annual Open Doors Home and Garden Tour and our SAGE program. In the past five years, HBEF has awarded \$600,000 in grants to the Huntington Beach City School District. SAGE (Showing Appreciation through Grant Endowment) is a teacher appreciation program whereby individuals can make a nominal donation to HBEF in honor of teachers, staff or volunteers during May's National Teacher Appreciation week. Our 10th Annual Home and Garden Tour will take place Saturday, May 9, 2009, from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Ticket holders will have the opportunity to tour 5-7 of Huntington Beach's finest homes and enjoy a gourmet buffet lunch and a Mother's Day shopping boutique at the Huntington Beach Art Center on Main Street.

To purchase tickets to the 2009 Home & Garden Tour or see more information about HBEF's First Annual Excellence in Education Awards Reception, look for more information coming home in backpacks or visit our web site at <http://www.hbef4kids.org>. Tickets will sell out, so don't miss this opportunity to provide a world-class education for the students of the Huntington Beach City School District by purchasing your Home & Garden Tour ticket today!

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