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**ED FOUNDATION RECEIVES GRANT FROM KIWANIS CLUB OF SANTA MONICA**

Santa Monica, Calif., July 19, 2012 – The Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation received a \$2,500 grant from the Kiwanis Club of Santa Monica on July 11 for its Tech4Success program. This grant will be used toward funding laptops for seniors in the AVID (Achievement Via Individual Determination) program upon graduation in 2013.

All AVID students are first-generation, college-bound students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Tech4Success supplements the AVID curriculum by training students to make better use of computer resources. Education Foundation volunteers present five technology workshops to the AVID students, aimed at improving their skills with Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Google Docs so that they can be successful in college and beyond. Since 2007, Tech4Success has supported 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade AVID students.

In addition to the workshops, Tech4Success offers AVID seniors the opportunity to apply for a free laptop computer to take to college so that they remain competitive with their college peers. Every year, about two-thirds of the students apply for a computer. The application process is thorough and includes an essay, interviews and teacher recommendations. In June 2012, every applicant received a laptop during a special ceremony for the students and their parents.

“We are so grateful for the Kiwanis Club’s contribution to the Tech4Success program,” said Rachel Faulkner, SMMEF Program Director. “These laptops give students an advantage as they start college that they wouldn’t have otherwise. It is wonderful that the Kiwanis Club is dedicated to providing for its community in this way.”

The Education Foundation provides laptops to approximately 18 students every year. The Kiwanis Club’s grant of \$2,500 is a significant contribution toward the cost. The Ed Foundation secures additional donations from businesses and individuals to cover the annual costs.

Established in 1982 in response to devastating federal and state education budget cuts, the Education Foundation was founded to enhance and supplement the curriculum of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. The Foundation raises funds to benefit the greatest unmet needs of the District and supports programs in Academics, Arts and Athletics. This is accomplished through a strategic fund development plan, special events and the establishment of permanent endowment funds.

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