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Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation Announces Major \$450,000 Bequest

Santa Monica, CA (January 15, 2015) – The Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation (SMMEF) has announced a major bequest of just over \$450,000 that will support the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's (SMMSUD) Vision for Student Success program. The gift is one of the largest in SMMEF's 33-year history.

"We are so grateful to receive this large bequest," said Linda Greenberg, SMMEF Executive Director. "Like all donations to SMMEF, this gift will help ensure that the amazing SMMEF-funded staff and programs in our schools, including teacher training, arts education, additional middle and high school classes, and instructional assistants, continue during the next school year."

The bequest was made by long-time Santa Monica community member Judi Lynne and is a powerful expression of support for public education.

The SMMUSD Vision for Student Success (VSS) is a comprehensive set of programs designed to improve student achievement and success. Gifts to SMMEF provide funding for SMMUSD to bring these programs to every school and grade level in the district. VSS programs include instructional assistants, literacy coaches, art instruction for every elementary grade, additional class sections for middle and high schools, professional development for teachers and instructional assistants, and discretionary grants for school-specific enrichment programs.

With this bequest, SMMEF has raised \$1,820,463 to fund VSS programs during the 2015-16 school year, out of a total annual goal of \$4 million to fully fund these programs. The fundraising deadline is June 30, 2015.

"Gifts like this one, which benefit students and schools district-wide, have to be our focus if we are to achieve equity in our district and give all students opportunities to succeed," said Greenberg. "We hope this gift will inspire parents, community members and corporate partners to join us in funding these vital programs for every student."

About the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation

Established in 1982 in response to devastating federal and state education budget cuts, the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation (SMMEF) was organized by a dedicated group of parents, community leaders, and local business owners to enhance and supplement the curriculum of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. SMMEF's mission is to engage the community to invest in a vibrant educational experience for all students in the Santa Monica and Malibu public schools. To learn more about SMMEF and SMMUSD's Vision for Student Success, visit www.smmef.org, follow us on Twitter: @smmef or like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/smmef.