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Contact:

Linda Greenberg Gross, Executive Director
Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation

Office: (310) 396-4557

Fax: (310) 450-5959

smmef@smmusd.org

www.smmef.org

Education Foundation unveils \$500,000 gift

Cash gift will support Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's new Vision for Student Success; donor hopes to inspire others to give

SANTA MONICA, CA, August 28, 2012 -- At tonight's Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education meeting, Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation Executive Director Linda Greenberg Gross announced the second-largest gift in organization's 30-year history – a \$500,000 cash commitment from the Scott Family Charitable Fund.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District recently adopted the "Vision for Student Success," a six-part initiative focused on ensuring quality educational opportunities for every student in the District. The Education Foundation's annual fundraising goal in support of the Vision for Student Success is \$4 million; the Scott Family gift will be allocated in full toward that goal for 2013-14, and specifically toward the provision of ongoing professional development for teachers and instructional aides in classrooms.

The Scott family includes longtime Santa Monica residents who have matriculated through SMMUSD schools and been active both with PTAs and as teachers' aides. The family's strong commitment to the District's Vision for Student Success, coupled with the Education Foundation's 31-year history of support for students throughout Santa Monica and Malibu schools, served as motivation for the gift.

"We are anxious to see the annual fundraising goal for the Vision for Student Success reached this year and every year, and we know the first year is the most challenging," the family stated. "We hope this gift will inspire parents and community members throughout the District to join us in providing enrichment opportunities for every student."

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“We couldn’t be more excited to have the opportunity to accept this monumental gift,” said Linda Greenberg Gross, Executive Director of the Education Foundation. “This gift is the largest ever from one of our District families, and it serves as affirmation of the critical importance of the Vision for Student Success.”

The Scott gift comes as the District implements a centralized fundraising model in which the Education Foundation broadens its focus from events and annual appeals to major and planned gifts that will create sustainability for important programs at schools throughout the District.

“I could not be more pleased to join with the Education Foundation to announce this significant investment in the future of our students and schools,” said Sandra Lyon, Superintendent of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. “The Scott family’s generosity sets us on a path toward success as we seek to enrich student experiences through the arts, smaller class sizes, personalized instruction, ongoing professional development, and more. We are so grateful for this leadership gift as we seek to enrich the learning experience for every student in our district.”

It was less than a year ago that the Education Foundation announced a transformative \$4.8 million gift from the Peggy Bergmann Estate, a portion of which also supports the Vision for Student Success both this year and in 2014-15. With tonight’s announcement of the Scott Family gift, the Education Foundation has raised more than \$1.9 million toward the 2013-14 goal.

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. The Foundation’s mission is to ensure equity and access to a vibrant educational experience for all students. Dollars raised by the Foundation are distributed equitably throughout the entire District. The Foundation works hand-in-hand with the District to allocate funds in ways that result in the greatest impact. The Foundation supports programs in academics, the arts, and athletics throughout the 16-school Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

To learn more about the Education Foundation and SMMUSD’s Vision for Student Success, visit www.smmef.org.

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