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## **PASADENA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION'S 2011 SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM SETS ENROLLMENT RECORD**

PASADENA, CA (July 15, 2011) – While the budget crisis continues to reduce school budgets and eliminate most summer school programs across the state, the Pasadena Educational Foundation's ninth-annual Summer Enrichment Program is serving more students from Altadena, Pasadena, and Sierra Madre and beyond.

Enrollment has risen to more than 1100 pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, a 25 percent increase from 2010. Five different programs at Pasadena Unified School District campuses include pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade programs at Franklin Elementary, Norma Coombs, and Willard Elementary schools, a 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade program at Wilson Middle School, and a separate high school program at Marshall Fundamental School.

“Expanding our program into Northwest Pasadena by adding Franklin School makes PEF's even more accessible to the entire community.” says PEF's Executive Director Patrick Conyers.

The wide range of enrichment opportunities include Intro to Kindergarten, Intro to First Grade, Computer, Chess, Ceramics, Cooking, Music, Band, Theater, Improv, Woodworking, Math, Engineering, Bridge, Mock Trial, Writing, Zumba, Robotics, Tennis, to name just a few of the offered classes. Credentialed teachers teach all classes. PEF limits classroom sizes to 20 students; most classes have fewer than that.

“Because of the smaller class sizes and longer class periods, teachers are able to focus more attention on the students and engage them with more hands-on activities that incorporate creativity and fun-based learning,” says Alden Denali, summer principal at Franklin School. This is not possible during the traditional school year given time limitations and increased class sizes.

These factors give students the chance to make solar ovens, create cities using math skills, learn to play the guitar, strengthen computer skills, make their own books, build

bird houses, and practice a variety of math skills, among many other opportunities.

Meanwhile, at Marshall Fundamental High School students can earn actual school credit in such classes as Spanish 2, AP European History, Masterful Writing, Pre-Calculus, Geometry, and Computer Science. By taking such classes in the summer, motivated students can reap the flexibility to take more advanced classes or more electives in the next school year. They can learn valuable skills in such classes as Driver's Ed and SAT Prep.

While tuition remains affordable, many families still need tuition assistance. This year PEF has provided \$60,000 in tuition assistance, tripling the amount awarded the previous year. Funding for scholarships is provided by the Goodstein Family, Pasadena Rotary, and the Ahmanson, Helen & Will Webster, and Schow Foundations.

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**WHAT:** Pasadena Educational Foundation's K-8 Summer Enrichment Program and High School Summer Program

**WHEN:** Monday through Thursday, July 5 to Aug. 4 for K-8; Monday through Friday, July 5 to Aug. 5 for high school.

**WHERE:** Franklin Elementary (K-5th) 527 W. Ventura St., Altadena; Norma Coombs Alternative School (K-5th) 2600 Paloma St., Pasadena; Willard Elementary (K-5<sup>th</sup>) 301 S. Madre St., Pasadena; Wilson Middle School (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) 300 Madre St., Pasadena. Marshall Fundamental School (high school) 990 N. Allen Ave., Pasadena.