

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Educators' Conference to Address a Solid, Sequenced Curriculum for Elementary and Middle School Students

January 22, 2007, Charlottesville, VA - Over 2,000 elementary and middle school teachers and administrators will travel to Washington, DC from all across the nation to attend the 16th Core Knowledge National Conference. The conference will be held February 22-24, 2007 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel.

The annual conference offers over 170 sessions covering methodology, classroom management, and subject-specific content. Conference speakers include David Schwartz, author of the best-selling book *How Much is a Million* and Alex Filippenko, the Carnegie/CASE Research and Doctoral Universities Professor of the Year. Professor Filippenko will offer a workshop on February 24 featuring the *Cosmic Voyage*, the film created specifically for the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution. The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) will offer two sessions on the state of early childhood and preschool programs in America today. Rafe Esquith, the fifth grade teacher featured in the PBS documentary *The Hobart Shakespearians* will speak at the luncheon on Friday, February 23. His troupe of student thespians will also perform.

A special session on Thursday, February 22 at 2:30-5:00 will feature an overview of the entire Core Knowledge Preschool-grade 8 curriculum followed by a panel discussion led by E. D. Hirsch, Jr., the founder of the Core Knowledge Foundation.

The Core Knowledge Foundation was established over 20 years ago by E. D. Hirsch, Jr. At the time his book *Cultural Literacy* was making waves throughout American society. With the help of professors and teachers from across the nation, the Foundation developed a curriculum for elementary and middle school classrooms. After several revisions, the curriculum, the *K-8 Sequence*, continues to be used in over 500 schools nationwide currently. In 1996, *The Schools We Need*, Hirsch's second book on the state of education in America was published. As states moved toward developing learning standards, some states used the Core Knowledge *K-8 Sequence* as a blueprint. In 2006, Hirsch addressed the problem of reading in elementary school in his book *The Knowledge Deficit*.

Press passes will be available before the conference. Please contact JoAnne Spitalo at jspitalo@coreknowledge.org or 434-220-3371. On-site passes can be picked up at the Conference registration desk at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel beginning Wednesday afternoon, February 21, 2007.

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