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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CEDC AND OXNARD COLLEGE TEAM UP TO PRESENT A CAREER AND PERSONAL GROWTH EXPLORATION DAY ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

Oxnard, California – The Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation and Oxnard College are partnering to host the “8th Annual Oxnard Youth Conference” at Oxnard College on Friday, October 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – 4000 South Rose Ave., Oxnard, CA 93033. The event will focus on providing students with a simulated college experience and the opportunity to explore academic career paths through a series of workshops. Nearly 800 middle and high school students from Ventura County are expected to attend.

This event is designed as an innovative educational experience to engage Ventura County youth in exploring options for their future. Students will participate in career exploration and personal growth workshops that feature role models as speakers and opportunities for shared learning. After the workshops, students will have the opportunity to learn about various community resources available to them during an interactive resource fair.

This unique conference partnership between CEDC and Oxnard College reflects a combination of each organization’s efforts to promote higher education and leadership development to local youth. Since 2009, CEDC’s “805 Youth Exchange” has brought together youth residents from its affordable home developments for a variety of personal and community development workshops. Additionally, Oxnard College’s annual “Youth Conference” has provided a college experience to local students over the past seven years. Last year’s joint effort resulted in overwhelming interest and one of the highest turnouts for either event.

The Youth Conference includes a resource fair, connecting youth to beneficial service providers, information, resources, and organizations in the community.

“We are excited to have the opportunity to bring the community together in support of individual achievement and success,” said Karen Engelsen, Dean of Student Services at Oxnard College.

This year's lunch entertainment includes a special appearance by the One Tribe Anti-Bullying Flash Mob, which is a group of young non-violence advocates who have created an upbeat choreographed dance to raise awareness against bullying. This group is made up of youth from Fillmore to South Oxnard in an organized call to action to youth, parents, community members and schools. "We are thrilled about this year's 805 Youth Exchange and kicking off our anti-bullying campaign with the One Tribe flash mob," said Kathryn Benner, Community Building and Neighborhood Revitalization Division Director. "This multi-year campaign will encourage parents and youth to start conversations in their schools and communities which will lead to proactive leadership against bullying at all levels."

This year's event title sponsor is Southern California Edison.

For information about the conference and volunteer opportunities, contact Marcos Lupian at: 805/986-5962 or MLupian@vcccd.edu. Find the event on CEDC's Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/CEDCVC. Tweets about the event: #youthcon805.

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About Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation

CEDC is a private non-profit community development corporation that provides comprehensive housing services, through a community building approach, in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Since its incorporation in 1981, CEDC has built 1,634 units of affordable for-sale and multi-family rental homes, and manages 973 affordable rental units. CEDC's NeighborWorks® HomeOwnership Center has assisted more than 817 families into home ownership through education, counseling, and lending services since 2004. This includes more than \$110 million in first and second mortgage financing and down payment assistance. CEDC is a chartered member of NeighborWorks®, a national network of more than 235 community development and affordable housing organizations. This year marks CEDC's 32nd year of operation.

About Oxnard College

OXNARD COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Oxnard College promotes high quality teaching and learning that meet the needs of a diverse student population. As a multicultural, comprehensive institution of higher learning, Oxnard College works to empower and inspire students to succeed in their personal and educational goals and aspirations.

As a unique and accessible community resource, our mission is to provide and promote student learning:

- ♦ Transfer, occupational, and general education, second language acquisition, and basic skills development;
- ♦ Student services and programs;
- ♦ Educational partnerships and economic development; and opportunities for lifelong learning.

Oxnard College intends to lead its community to fulfill its highest potential.