



**MENLO PARK-ATHERTON
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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MPAEF Reaches \$2 Million Milestone for Endowment for Excellence in Teaching

The Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation (MPAEF) announced that it has reached a \$2 million milestone for its Endowment for Excellence in Teaching. With this initial funding goal successfully met, the Foundation Endowment is poised to direct distributions to fund teacher professional development programs for the faculty of Laurel, Encinal, Oak Knoll elementary schools and Hillview Middle School.

The Endowment's mission is to invest in the professional development of faculty. Its goal is to fund targeted programs that will attract, develop and retain exceptional teachers for the students of the Menlo Park City School District. The MPAEF Endowment was the first of the 550 educational foundations in California to develop a specific purpose endowment which will provide sustainable funding for professional development of public school teachers. The establishment of this targeted endowment reflects the recognition of the importance of quality teachers on student performance and overall school success.

After 25 years of private fundraising for local public schools, the MPAEF saw an opportunity to respond to some of the longer-term, strategic needs of the school district

that could not be addressed through its annual grants. The MPAEF also saw neighboring education foundations launch endowment efforts, so with the counsel of the School Board and the Superintendent, the MPAEF formally established an Endowment Fund in 2003.

Mark Box, co-president of the MPAEF, commented that, “Reaching this \$2 million mark for the Endowment for Excellence in Teaching demonstrates the commitment that the community has for excellence in our local schools, and specifically for the support of our faculty in their continuing education and development. It’s a great benefit to the faculty, as well as to the children at Laurel, Encinal, Oak Knoll and Hillview.”

The Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation is a public charity dedicated to raising funds to support excellence in public education in the Menlo Park District. The District educates 2350 students at its four schools: Laurel, Encinal, Oak Knoll and Hillview Middle School. More information about the MPAEF is available at www.mpaef.org.