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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CEDC AND OXNARD COLLEGE TEAM UP TO PRESENT A CAREER AND PERSONAL GROWTH EXPLORATION DAY ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

Oxnard, California – The Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation and Oxnard College are partnering to host the “Youth Conference: 805 Youth Exchange” at Oxnard College on Friday, October 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 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 all-day 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 six years. This year’s joint effort named “Youth Conference at Oxnard College: 805 Youth Exchange” has resulted in overwhelming interest and one of the highest expected turnouts for either event, with nearly 800 students expected to attend.

More than 30 featured workshops include career exploration in medical fields, law, community building, non-profit work, leadership, personal development, financial planning, service learning, cultural arts and even robotics. Additionally, students will be informed about various state and federal policy changes that may affect their higher education goals, such as the free application for Federal Student Aid, the Deferred Action program, and AB 540. Workshop presenters will

include; the Mexican American Bar Association; CEDC's Community Engagement Team and HomeOwnership Center staff; the Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP); California State University Channel Islands; Youth Activities League; Big Brothers, Big Sisters Ventura County; Interface Children and Family Services and Coastal Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE) and more.

Workshops will include such topics as "Women's Experience in College," "Designing Your Dream Community," "Changing Your Community: Political Activism and Grassroots Organizing," "Careers in Sports," "Money Smarts Makes Perfect Cents," "Practicing Culture and Finding Community through Higher Education," and "Hip Hop and the Creative Arts."

"This event is a great opportunity for the youth of our community to be exposed to the plethora of possibilities for their future and to hopefully be inspired to get involved in our community and give back," says Rena Sepulveda, CEDC's Community Outreach Assistant and one of the conference organizers.

The Youth Conference includes a resource fair, connecting youth to beneficial service providers, information, resources, and organizations in the community. "The resource fair will showcase how agencies, organizations, and business work together to improve the life for all members of our region," said Sepulveda. The resource fair will include music and giveaways.

"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.

For information about the conference and volunteer opportunities, contact Rena Sepulveda at: 805/659-3791 x.147 or rsepulveda@cabrilloedc.org. Find the event on CEDC's Facebook page at: Cabrilloedc.org.

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About CEDC

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 31st 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.