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**NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATIONAL ACCESS CONTINUES TO
EXPAND WITH HELP OF TWO MAJOR GRANTS
Goldman Sachs Foundation and J.C. Kellogg Foundation Show
Support for Coalition Efforts**

BOSTON, October 7, 2008 – Two national foundations have made significant grants to The Steppingstone Foundation to fund the National Partnership for Educational Access (NPEA), an initiative launched to create community amongst non-profits and other organizations working with a common goal to increase college access for underserved students. Based in Boston, NPEA has over 60 members in 16 states.

The Goldman Sachs Foundation granted \$100,000 "to support the continued development of the National Partnership for Educational Access." Funds will be used to improve and expand member services, develop internal and external evaluation metrics, and support NPEA's first conference, to be held in 2009 in Boston. The Foundation's mission is to promote excellence and innovation in education worldwide. Grants have been awarded in excess of \$132 million since its inception, providing opportunities for young people in more than 20 countries.

The J. C. Kellogg Foundation has provided a \$75,000 donation to support NPEA's efforts. THE J. C. Kellogg Foundation provides creative financial support and other assistance to organizations serving a variety of community and educational needs.

“We are thrilled to have the support of these respected foundations, not only financially, but as a validation of the important work we feel the NPEA is doing to further educational access,” said NPEA director Karin Elliott. “With these funds we will be able to share best practices and further advance the field of college access for underserved students.”

ABOUT THE STEPPINGSTONE FOUNDATION

Founded in 1990, The Steppingstone Foundation is a nonprofit organization that develops and implements programs which prepare urban schoolchildren for educational opportunities that lead to college. Through The Steppingstone Academy in Boston, and affiliate programs in Hartford and Philadelphia, Steppingstone has served 1,475 students in grades five through 12 since 1990. For additional information, please visit www.tsf.org.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATIONAL ACCESS

Launched in 2007 by The Steppingstone Foundation, the National Partnership for Educational Access (NPEA) is a membership organization for programs committed to increasing educational opportunities for motivated, underserved students across the U.S. Currently serving over 60 members in 16 states, NPEA is working toward a day when all students have equal access to high-quality secondary and post-secondary education. NPEA has been made possible through the support of The Goldman Sachs Foundation, The J. C. Kellogg Foundation, and the Esther A. & Joseph Klingenstein Fund. More information can be found at <http://www.educational-access.org>.

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