For immediate release:

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Irvine Student Recognized by National Education Group as
This Year's "Emerging Student Innovator"

Project Tomorrow recognizes OC principal, teacher and student for exemplary innovations in science, math and technology in K-12 education

Irvine, CA, May 14, 2009 – Project Tomorrow, the nation's leading education nonprofit organization headquartered in Irvine, announced today the recipients of the 4th Annual Innovation in Education Awards at TechAmerica's High Tech Awards Dinner held at the Costa Mesa Hilton. Project Tomorrow is dedicated to ensuring that today's students are well prepared to be tomorrow's next generation of innovators and scientists and can sustain the global economic competitiveness of Orange County. The Innovation in Education Awards recognizes an Orange County school program, high impact teacher and emerging student innovator who are using science, math and technology resources to teach more effectively or solve a community problem. The annual Project Tomorrow Innovation in Education Awards is underwritten by Emulex, Inc.

This year Project Tomorrow received an unprecedented 22 nominations for these prestigious awards which include a financial grant for the school and teacher to help support or replicate their innovative programs, and a $2,500 college scholarship for the student award recipient. In addition, the finalists and award winners were presented to the county's executives in the high tech industry at a black tie dinner and awards program on Thursday night. At that event, Julie Evans, CEO of Project Tomorrow, Jim McCluney, President and CEO of Emulex, announced this year's Innovation in Education Award winners:

Innovative School Program in Science, Math and Technology

Dave Gerhard, Principal
Project Splash
Concordia Elementary School, San Clemente
Capistrano Unified School District

High Impact Teacher in Science, Math and Technology

Todd Salesky, Teacher
Global IT Academy
Brea-Olinda High School, Brea
Brea Unified School District

Emerging Student Innovator in Science, Math and Technology

Govil Gupta, 10th Grade Student
Wonderwriters.com
Northwood High School, Irvine
Irvine Unified School District

"In today's global economy, it is more important than ever that our schools are effectively leveraging science, math and technology resources to provide a truly 21st century education that can drive regional innovation and economic competitiveness, noted Julie Evans, Project Tomorrow Chief Executive Officer. The Innovation in Education Award recipients are examples of how our educators and students here in Orange County are meeting those challenges directly with excellent results. Innovation in science, math and technology in our K-12 schools is alive and well in Orange County!"

Information about this year's Innovation in Education Award finalists and recipients is available online at: http://www.tomorrow.org/programs/innovationawards.html.

About Project Tomorrow

Project Tomorrow is the nation's leading education nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that today's students are well prepared to become tomorrow's leaders, innovators and engaged citizens of the world. Project Tomorrow supports the innovative uses of science, math and technology resources in our K-12 schools and communities to help students develop the critical thinking, problem solving and creativity skills needed to compete and thrive in the 21st century. The organization approaches the mission through national research projects, the replication of model excellence projects in schools and communities, online tools and resources for students, teachers and parents, and national and regional advocacy efforts. In Orange County, Project Tomorrow has implemented its nationally recognized Science Docent Program within 7 high schools to help increase science literacy and to groom the next generation of science and math teachers. More information about programs and how individuals, companies and foundations can support this effort is available at www.tomorrow.org.

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