



## **An Estimated 800 Peer Tutors to be Trained and Certified During “TutorPalooza” Kick-off Event in Chicagoland Area; Groundbreaking Event Set for Saturday, October 13, 2007**

(Lakeland, FL --- October 7, 2007) “**TutorPalooza**” kicks off on Saturday, October 13, 2007, hosted by Wheeling High School in Wheeling, IL. During this special event, produced by the National Tutoring Association, approximately 800 Chicago area high school students will be given a full day of professional tutor training. The event is free to participating students and their schools. This massive training initiative is in celebration of National Tutoring Week, October 8-12, 2007. The students will participate in a full day of intensive training, earning them a prestigious Level I Basic Certification from the NTA. Eighteen trainers are traveling from around the country to provide the nationally recognize training, including NTA master tutors from Illinois, Ohio, New York, Florida and California.

The NTA defines peer tutoring as trained student tutors assisting other students who are within close proximity of the tutor’s grade and age. Research clearly demonstrates that peer tutoring is academically effective and costs significantly less to oversee than private practice or other professionally driven tutoring programs (supporting research available upon request). Peer tutoring programs can be an important element towards the success of the federal “No Child Left Behind” (NCLB) program, but so far many school districts and other education programs have overlooked or underfunded this potential resource. For a fact sheet on Peer Tutoring research, visit <http://crossroadsoflearning.com/nta-tutorpalooza>

The event host is Mr. Lazaro Lopez, principal of Wheeling High School. A long time advocate of peer tutoring, Mr. Lopez is a pioneer in setting up peer tutoring programs and is an expert in the field. In his estimation, “the basis for the most effective interventions for schools to meet the mandates established by NCLB is individualized student support. Peer-tutoring is one essential avenue for public school educators to provide that needed support in a cost-effective manner.” The students to be trained are coming from the greater Chicago and surrounding suburban area schools, including Harry Jacobs High School, Wheeling High School, John Hersey High School, Maine West High School, Palatine High School, Elk Grove Village High School, Erie Neighborhood House, Prospect High School, Buffalo Grove High School, Parkland College, Rolling Meadows High School, St Francis University, BOTECH Program (Detroit, MI), Whitney M. Young Magnet High School. For a complete schedule of events, visit <http://crossroadsoflearning.com/nta-tutorpalooza>

The NTA directs a *Peer Tutoring Initiative* as a coordinated response to the challenges of “No Child Left Behind” (NCLB) and the global advancement of peer tutoring. The *Peer Tutoring Initiative* is a year-round program, dedicated to the development of regional trainings. The training is an adaptation of the professional “Tutoring Foundations” on-line training course, developed in a unique collaboration between the NTA, Crossroads of Learning in Los Angeles and the Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara. Scholarships for peer tutors, grants to schools to train and pay peer tutors, professional support for peer tutor coordinators as well as peer tutor program sessions at the annual NTA conference are all efforts that are being taken on as part of the overall *Peer Tutoring Initiative*.

For more information on the *Peer Tutoring Initiative*, “**TutorPalooza**” or National Tutoring Week, October 8 – 12, 2007, please contact the National Tutoring Association at [ntatutor@aol.com](mailto:ntatutor@aol.com), 863.529.5206 or visit <http://www.ntatutor.org>

### **About the National Tutoring Association:**

Founded in 1992, the NTA (<http://www.ntatutor.org>) is the oldest and largest international organization of tutoring professionals, currently representing nearly 5,000 tutors and learning center administrators, including colleges, universities, K-12 schools, community and grant supported programs, NCLB/SES and TRIO providers as well as independent tutoring centers and their staffs. Their members include peer, paraprofessional, professional, volunteer, and private practice tutors. The NTA is also a member of the American Council of Developmental Education Associations (ACDEA).

### **About Fielding Graduate University:**

Fielding Graduate University (<http://www.fielding.edu>) has an international reputation for the highest quality accredited graduate degree and certificate programs in three schools: Psychology, Human & Organization Development and Educational Leadership & Change. Fielding is renowned for its innovative contributions to academic research, lifelong learning and social justice.

### **About Crossroads of Learning:**

Crossroads of Learning ([www.crossroadsoflearning.com](http://www.crossroadsoflearning.com)) is a division of Media InfoSystems, Inc. a provider of systems design, training, and business products and services since 1982. In addition to the on-line “Tutoring Foundations” tutor-training program, Crossroads of Learning provides many [free resources](#) including a [community](#) of interest for one-to-one educators (discussions, meeting areas, blogs, file sharing, etc.), a [library](#) of helpful Internet tools, the [Journal](#), and [Tutoring Town Hall](#) interactive webcasts with timely subjects and experts in the field.

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