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**IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY – CAREER & COLLEGE CLUBS PUT
MIDDLE SCHOOLERS ON ROAD TO SUCCESS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL**

Grants Program Announced to Support Expansion in California

Los Angeles, CA (April 2, 2009) – More than 500 middle school youth throughout California are better prepared for success in education after high school — and life — thanks to their Career & College Club. Designed to reach students before negative peer and societal influences erode their optimism, the program was piloted at 17 sites throughout California in 2008-09:

Dinuba

Washington Intermediate School

Fresno

Angels of Grace Foster Care Agency

Sacramento

Samuel Jackman Middle School

James Rutter Middle School

Selma

Abraham Lincoln Middle School

Los Angeles

Bancroft Middle School

Heart of Los Angeles

Patrick Henry Middle School

International Studies Learning Center

David Starr Jordan Middle School

John Liechty Middle School

Los Angeles Academy Middle School

Edwin Markham Middle School

Mulholland Middle School

El Sereno Middle School

Variety Boys and Girls Club

Woodland Hills Academy

Based on initial results from those sites, ALL Student Loan is expanding the program and offering 100 grants of \$500 each to California schools and nonprofit organizations that sponsor a Career & College Club.

All California schools, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies that serve middle school-age youth can apply for a grant. One hundred grants of \$500 will be awarded on first come, first served basis until funds are exhausted. The grant guidelines and application can be found at www.careerandcollegeclubs.org.

“Career & College Clubs is a research-based, extra-curricular program developed to help young people take responsibility for their futures,” said Quentin Wilson, president and CEO of ALL Student Loan. “Results from the pilot year show that every California middle school student could benefit from the program. That’s our ultimate goal.”

Expansion of Career & College Clubs coincides with launch of the State of California’s *Early Commitment to College* initiative. Starting a Career & College Club is simple and inexpensive, and can compliment other efforts by schools and nonprofit organizations to further the *Early Commitment to College* goals. Participation in the program is free for students and the sponsoring organization.

About ALL Student Loan

ALL Student Loan (www.allstudentloan.org) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing resources and programs for students and families so they can succeed in education beyond high school.

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