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Press Release: The EPGY Online High School at Stanford University

Stanford, California, April 2006 – Through a generous gift from the Malone Family Foundation of Englewood, Colorado, Stanford University’s Education Program for Gifted Youth (EPGY) announces the creation of the EPGY Online High School at Stanford University. The EPGY Online High School (EPGY-OHS) will be a three-year, fully-accredited, diploma-granting, online, independent high school. Formally a part of Stanford University’s Education Program for Gifted Youth, and building on EPGY’s fifteen-year history of providing online courses to gifted students, the EPGY-OHS will provide gifted students with a course of study designed expressly for them in an educational environment ideally suited to helping such students realize their potential and develop their abilities. Through the EPGY-OHS, students everywhere will have the opportunity to receive an education comparable to that offered by the best schools in the world.

The Malone Family Foundation has supported EPGY since 2002 and expects this significant innovation to fill an urgent need, strongly complementing its own Malone Scholars program. According to Foundation Chairman John C. Malone, “We are excited to partner with Stanford, a premier educational institution, in this groundbreaking project. While we continue to increase the number of local Malone scholarship endowments across the country, this ubiquitous program will have immediate impact without geographic boundaries, offering *all* gifted students *everywhere* access to a rigorous, Stanford-quality curriculum.”

The course of study at the EPGY-OHS will be conducive to the needs of this unique student population. Courses will be academically rigorous, featuring enhanced mathematical content in natural science and social science courses and an emphasis on discussion and argumentation in the humanities courses. University-level courses will be available to students in many subject areas. “We want to keep these students working at full capacity until they are old enough to enter a university,” said EPGY Director and Faculty Advisor, Professor Patrick Suppes. “There is no reason why the best students in the OHS should not be able to complete work at a level comparable to that of the best Stanford University undergraduates.” As part of creating the Online High School, EPGY will be significantly expanding its online course offerings in the Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and the Humanities.

In addition to the work that students do online during the academic year, students will also have the option of coming to Stanford University for up to eight weeks during the summer. This residential component of the EPGY-OHS will provide opportunities for students to do things which are challenging in an online environment, such as laboratory work, while also providing students with an opportunity to deepen their bonds with their classmates and instructors.

Although the EPGY-OHS will support full-time students, it will not require that students be full time. “Part of the motivation behind the creation of the EPGY-OHS,” said Raymond Ravaglia, EPGY Deputy Director, “is to address the difficulties that students frequently have in pursuing advanced educational opportunities beyond those offered by their local schools.” Students in the EPGY-OHS will be able to combine courses taken from local schools with those taken from the EPGY-OHS and from other programs for gifted students in order to satisfy their requirements for the EPGY-OHS diploma. The EPGY-OHS will also support dual-enrollment with traditional high schools, allowing schools to view the EPGY-OHS as a resource for their best students and not just as a competing institution.

EPGY expects that the EPGY-OHS will draw gifted students from across the country and around the world. Different populations of students likely to be interested in the EPGY-OHS include: students in rural areas or overseas, students who are being home schooled, students in Title I schools, students who need advanced instruction in a particular subject area, students interested in academic pursuits not covered by the standard high-school curriculum, or students who want a more intensive academic program.

The EPGY-OHS will begin accepting student applications in Spring 2006 and will officially open with the initial class of students beginning in Fall 2006. Information concerning the application process and the courses available at the EPGY-OHS will be available on April 25, 2006. See the website: <http://epgy.stanford.edu/ohs>

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About the Education Program for Gifted Youth (EPGY) at Stanford University – EPGY at Stanford University develops and offers online courses to gifted students in grades K – 12 from across the United States and around the world. Since its inception in 1992 EPGY has had over 50,000 students complete online courses in mathematics, physics, and English, and has over 4,000 presently enrolled online. EPGY also offers academic residential summer programs on the Stanford University campus and will have almost 1,000 students from 30 different countries in attendance this year. In addition to its work with individual students, EPGY also works with schools to make its courses available both to individual students and to teachers to use with their classes. For more information about EPGY or the EPGY-OHS contact Raymond Ravaglia, Deputy Director EPGY, at ravaglia@stanford.edu or (650) 723-4117.

About the Malone Family Foundation—The Malone Family Foundation provides scholarship endowments to select U.S. independent secondary schools to fund the education of gifted students with financial need. Through a secondary program, the Foundation also supports selective gifted research and development projects. Unsolicited proposals are not accepted. More information about The Malone Family Foundation may be found at www.malonefamilyfoundation.org.