

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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College Forward

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03/29/07

College Forward Trivia Contest at Mother Egan's *Mayor Will Wynn and Community Leaders Host Annual Event*

College Forward kicked off its second annual "College Challenge" fundraiser at 6:00p.m., Wednesday, March 28th, at Mother Egan's Irish Pub at 715 West 6th Street. The rousing team trivia competition posed questions that ranged from AstroTurf to algebra. Team Mercury Mambo won the contest with 24 out of 33 correct answers, and went home with a prize package including REI and massage gift certificates, as well as a quirky array of camping gear. Dan Scheib went home a winner, too—after bidding \$850 on a Gibson Les Paul guitar in our silent auction.

College Forward provides more than 300 motivated, low-income high school students with college counseling services in Austin, Del Valle, Georgetown and Hays ISD. From ACT prep to navigating the application process, financial aid and even college retention strategies to help program graduates once they matriculate, College Forward gives students the support they need to apply to, be accepted by, and succeed in college. 100% of enrolled students have been accepted to at least one school, and the program's collegians averaged \$16,000 in financial aid last year.

"Austin is one of the greatest cities around," said Mayor Will Wynn at the College Challenge last night. "We're one of the youngest, best educated, healthiest, most active cities in the nation. Students come here from all over to study at our fine universities. Yet we've already got thousands of talented youth in our city, who for a multitude of reasons struggle to enter the colleges just down the street. That's why organizations like College Forward are so important. They provide the guidance our students need to enter these schools and reach their fullest potential."

Hosts and sponsors of the event included Mayor Will Wynn, City Council member Brewster McCracken, Pebbles Wadsworth for the UT Performing Arts Center, David Marquardt for The Steam Team, Doreen J. Wise, Cynthia and Luis Saenz, Clay Pope, Tom Sicola for A Culinary Experience, Larry Warshaw for Constructive Ventures, Ikard Wynne and Ratliff, LLP, Mercury Mambo, Gail Allen, and Sallie Mae, Inc.

"I haven't had this much fun since the SATs!" exclaimed winning team member Becky Arreaga. "The questions were tough, some downright cruel—but Team Mambo never broke a sweat: we'd studied before the game."

College Forward provides college preparatory services to motivated, economically-disadvantaged students, in order to facilitate their transition to college and make the process exciting and rewarding. We believe that access to higher education is the right of every young Texan.

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