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ASSET Announces a New Course Opportunity for Educators Working with Youth in Foster Care

Phoenix, AZ (March 05, 2007) – ASSET

The foster care population in the U.S. has nearly doubled over the past two decades¹. The number of children in foster care jumped from 302,000 in 1980 to 542,000 in 2001. While this alone is a sobering statistic, of great concern also is the fact that each time a child in care changes schools due to a change in family placement he or she loses 6 months of educational progress.

In a continued effort to address and improve educational outcomes for youth in care, ASSET (Arizona School Services through Educational Technology) and Casey Family Programs are pleased to announce a new online course aimed at improving educators' knowledge about the unique educational needs of all youth in foster care. Drawing on four decades of front-line work with families and alumni of foster care, Casey Family Programs has developed tools, practices, and resources to nurture all youth in care and to help strengthen families at risk of needing foster care. ASSET worked closely with staff from the Casey Family Programs to develop this 15 hour, 8-week, self-paced online course based on the existing Casey Family Programs *Endless Dreams* curriculum. The course is designed to provide teachers, counselors, and other educators working with youth in foster care insight into the educational implications of out of home placement and strategies for working with these youth in the classroom.

The pilot offering of this course begins in February 2007. Upon completion of the pilot, this course will be regularly offered by ASSET. To learn more about this course or how you might register visit www.asset.asu.edu.

About ASSET

Since 1983, ASSET-Arizona School Services through Educational Technology has been committed to empowering educators and students to achieve excellence through the use of technology in teaching and learning. What began as an experiment to cost effectively distribute instructional video statewide has grown into an organization that offers a broad array of services for educators. ASSET provides its members access to the latest professional development opportunities and curricular resources for the classroom via the ASSET Education Portal.

ASSET is a non-profit organization supported by a membership consortium of public school districts, private, charter, and Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. As a self-supported department of Eight/KAET public television located at Arizona State University, ASSET's work is not only supported by its membership, but also grants and corporate donations as well. ASSET takes great pride in collaborating with business and non-profit organizations to bring the best possible resources to Arizona educators. In July 2005 the Arizona Department of Education entered an agreement with ASSET to pay the membership fee on behalf of all Arizona K-12 public and private-non profit schools.

About Casey Family Programs

Casey Family Programs is the largest national foundation whose sole mission is to provide and improve – and ultimately prevent the need for – foster care. The foundation draws on its 40 years of experience and expert research and analysis to improve the lives of children and youth in foster care in two important ways: by providing direct services and support to foster families, and by promoting improvements in child welfare practice and policy. The Seattle-based foundation was established in 1966 by United Parcel Service (UPS) founder Jim Casey, and has a current endowment of \$2.4 billion.

¹Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) Report: Preliminary FY 2004. Retrieved May 5, 2006, from www.acf.hhs.gov