NEWS RELEASE

TO: News Directors
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ten Scholarships Available to National Pre-Service Teacher Program Conference

Ten scholarships to the National Pre-Service Teacher Program Conference administered by Norfolk State University and Langley Research Center, (February 12 – 14, 2004), in Alexandria, Virginia are available to eligible students through the University of South Carolina’s Institute for Families in Society and its Catawba Indian Nation “Catawba Connections” project. All conference costs, including transportation and meals, will be covered; however, there is a one-time, $15 registration fee for those who attend. Deadline for application is Tuesday, December 9, 2003.

Roger Hathaway, University Affairs Officer at Langley, explains why the ten scholarships were given to the Institute. “I was in attendance at the National Indian Education Association meeting in Greensboro, NC when I participated in the workshop conducted by the Institute for Families in Society at USC. I was so impressed by what they were doing I offered them the opportunity to attend our national conference in northern Virginia, February 12-14, 2004. The major focus of our education program at NASA is to provide training opportunities for future teachers of underrepresented groups and implement strategies to influence math, science, and technology at the elementary education level. I was convinced that through the Institute, we will find students who will benefit from this opportunity.”

The National Pre-Service Teacher Program (PSTP) is a partnership between the Langley Office of Education and Norfolk State University's School of Science & Technology. The aim of the program is to provide Pre-Service teachers and faculty members opportunities to enhance their knowledge and skill in teaching mathematics and science using technology at the pre-kindergarten, elementary and middle school levels. The Pre-Service Teacher Conference is held each spring and hosts 600 to 700 prospective pre-kindergarten, elementary and middle school teachers from selected Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and some majority institutions. Students and faculty are exposed to invigorating general sessions and hands-on workshops. The conference culminates with a Career Day where students have the opportunity to interview with recruiters from public schools and graduate schools from across the country. More information is available at the NASA Education website – http://edu.larc.nasa.gov/pstc or at the Institute for Families in Society website when applying.

Eligibility requirements:
- U.S. citizen
- Undergraduate or graduate student with no current undergraduate degree in education
- Prospective pre-K through 8 teacher (preferably in junior/senior year of college)
- Able to participate in all required conference activities and remain for entire conference

Native American students are strongly encouraged to apply.
How to apply:

1. Go to the Institute for Families in Society website at [http://ifs.sc.edu](http://ifs.sc.edu)
2. News of conference will be on the home page under “News”
3. Click on “SEE DETAILS”
4. Read details and eligibility requirements
5. Complete the form and attach a reference letter from a professor/instructor
6. Email, fax, mail or bring to the Institute for Families in Society
   Email address: gibson@wmu.sc.edu
   Fax number: 803/777-1120
   Mailing address: Institute for Families in Society
                  University of South Carolina
                  Carolina Plaza, 937 Assembly Street
                  Columbia, SC 29208

All inquiries can be made through email at the email address above. Again, all applications must be in by **Tuesday, December 9, 2003**. Accepted students will be contacted by Monday, December 15, 2003.

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