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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Online Course Evaluation Project to Provide Free Course Evaluations

(Monterey, CA – March 28, 2006) The Monterey Institute for Technology and Education (MITE) today announced the release of an RFP to identify, assess and select online courses to participate in the Online Course Evaluation Project (OCEP). The Online Course Evaluation Project gives faculty, institutions and non-profit organizations developing online courses an opportunity to have a team of independent evaluators review their online course content and contrast the course against standardized criteria and other online courses. OCEP is an Open Educational Resource (OER) project, a national effort by educators, educational organizations and developers to make educational content and information accessible to all.

The evaluation results of the OCEP study will be available publicly in a web-enabled comparison tool developed in partnership with the EduTools project from the WCET (www.edutools.info.) Currently available evaluations include courses in Calculus, Spanish, English, Philosophy, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics, Economics, History, and Computer Science, intended for both higher education and Advanced Placement audiences.

“The OCEP project has been underway for over two years,” said Butch Gemin, Director of Business Development for MITE. “The response from academic institutions has been wonderful and we hope this RFP will allow other worthy institutions an opportunity to participate in this exciting project. I encourage everyone interested in participating to visit the EduTools website to see for themselves.”

This Request for Proposal will result in the selection of 15 courses to be evaluated through OCEP. Courses selected for evaluation through this RFP process will be included in the 2006 OCEP evaluation and publication schedule. The total value of the evaluations to be awarded is \$18,000.00. Interested institutions should contact Diane Threlkeld, OCEP Project Manager (dthrelkeld@direcway.com) to receive the complete RFP. The deadline for proposal submission is May 19, 2006.

The OCEP project is funded through a grant from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

*OCEP is a project of the **Monterey Institute for Technology and Education (MITE)**, an educational non-profit organization committed to helping meet society’s need for access to effective, high-quality educational opportunities in an era of rapid economic, social, and personal change. The Monterey Institute for Technology and Education was founded as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in 2003. Learn more at: <http://www.montereyinstitute.org>.*

About the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has been making grants since 1966 to help solve social and environmental problems at home and around the world. The Foundation concentrates its resources on activities in education, environment, global development, performing arts, philanthropy, population, and makes grants to support disadvantaged communities in the San Francisco Bay Area. A full list of all the Hewlett Foundation’s grants can be found at <http://www.hewlett.org/grants>.

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