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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **National Repository of Online Courses Receives \$2.35m Grant from the Hewlett Foundation**

(Monterey, CA – March 21, 2006) The Monterey Institute for Technology and Education (MITE) today announced the receipt of a \$2.35 million grant from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to continue the development of the National Repository of Online Courses (NROC).

The National Repository of Online Courses project supports the development and distribution of high-quality online courses to a worldwide audience. Through collaboration with a community of academic institutions, NROC has created a library of 28 high-quality higher education, Advanced Placement®, and high school courses and has built an international network of distributors that include state departments of education, community colleges, high school districts, textbook publishers, and international educational non-profit institutions.

“We are very pleased that The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation recognizes the contribution NROC has made during the last eighteen months. With this grant, we will be able to expand our library, significantly increase our distribution worldwide, and offer these quality materials in new and interesting ways.” said Gary Lopez, Executive Director of MITE.

Through the NROC Network, a community of online learning organizations, NROC will continue to expand its offerings. “One of the most exciting projects we are initiating is a collaborative course development model which will allow many organizations to participate and benefit by working together.” Lopez said. “In addition, we are exploring mobile technologies, as well as other innovative ways to bring these resources to students. Education is changing and to be successful, we need to stay ahead of the technology.”

Mike Smith, Education Program Director for The William and Flora Foundation believes the work that MITE is doing is critical to the Open Education Resource (OER) movement. “The project is creating very high quality, complete courses in the sciences, mathematics and history. The best news is that they are free for anyone to use on the web. In a time when our nation is expending a huge effort on improving math and science education, this effort could be one major part of the answer.”

*NROC 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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