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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charting the Direction of Online Course Content: NROC Network Advisors Announced

(Menlo Park, CA – October 3, 2006) The Monterey Institute for Technology and Education (MITE) is holding their annual National Repository of Online Courses (NROC) Advisory Panel Summit beginning today at the offices of The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation in Menlo Park. This meeting will bring together the Charter Members of the NROC Network, an online collaborative community, to define the direction of the organization. The Panel will help establish the immediate goals and future strategies as the Network expands its membership to the broader educational community.

The Advisory Panel includes leaders in the online education community from Kentucky Virtual High School, Michigan Virtual High School, Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities, South Carolina Department of Education, Colorado Community College Online, Iowa Community College Consortium, Minnesota Online, Chattanooga Technical and Community Colleges, UT Telecampus, St. Petersburg College, Buena Vista University, Omaha School District, and the University of California. All these organizations are known as leaders in the development of online courses and content, who are striving for the continuous improvement of courses and online teaching. Each is committed to professional development of faculty and staff, and supports the collaborative development and sharing of content, tools and resources.

“I could not have asked for a stronger group to steer the direction of NROC,” said Gary Lopez, Executive Director. “Our mission is to meet society’s need for access to effective, high-quality educational opportunities and this group has the experience and insight to help us adapt to the ever-changing needs in this rapidly growing environment. There is no doubt that education via technology is here to stay.”

Robert Threlkeld, Ph.D. will be leading a discussion on the state of course development on campuses and there will be an overview of the new “Open Course” project to collaboratively develop courses. Other topics being discussed include continuous course improvement, building a community of educational developers, social authoring, mobile technologies, and building consortiums. The meeting continues through Friday.

*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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