

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FOUNDATION FOR A COLLEGE EDUCATION NAMED 2012 TALL TREE RECIPIENT**

Palo Alto, CA—February 17, 2011—Yesterday, [The Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce](#) and the *Palo Alto Weekly* announced that [Foundation for a College Education](#) (FCE) is the recipient of a 2012 Tall Tree Award as the outstanding community non-profit organization. FCE, located in East Palo Alto, is dedicated to college access and completion for low-income students of color.

The award is given to individuals, organizations and businesses that “have demonstrated exceptional civic contributions and service to the community.” Winners of this year’s Tall Tree Awards, were announced Thursday, Feb. 16, during a reception at the Garden Court Hotel in Palo Alto, California.

FCE was recognized for its ongoing work matriculating East Palo Alto area students into college and ensuring that they graduate.

“We are honored to have received this award for our work with underrepresented students, many of whom attend school in Palo Alto,” said Anna Waring, FCE’s executive director.

FCE’s program engages both students and their parents in the shared goal of achieving the dream of a college education. The program provides tutoring in the core college prep courses, SAT preparation, assistance with college and financial aid applications, college tours and parent education. Once students enter college, the organization offers academic support and scholarships. And it works. 100 percent of FCE students graduate high school and attend college, and 86 percent complete college within five years.

“Receiving this award is heartening validation of all the work put in by Anna and her team, as well as the FCE students, parents and volunteers,” said Elaine Ray, president of FCE’s Board of Directors. “For 16 years, FCE has served as a model for ensuring that bright, capable students have access to the skills, information and support they need to succeed in college and beyond.”

The Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce will present the Tall Tree Award to FCE at the Tall Tree Awards Dinner on Wednesday, April 11 at the Crowne Plaza Cabana. Other recipients are John Barton as the Outstanding Business Person, Alison Cormack as the Outstanding Citizen and Whole Foods Market as the Outstanding Business.

*Founded in 1995, Foundation for a College Education’s (FCE) mission is to increase the number of students of color from East Palo Alto and surrounding communities who graduate from a four-year college or university.*

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