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Press Release

Source: California Academic Decathlon

The California Academic Decathlon Proudly Announces Lead Sponsorship from Leonard Green & Partners, L.P.

Wednesday February 9, 1:32 pm ET

TARZANA, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Feb. 9, 2005--The California Academic Decathlon announced today that Leonard Green & Partners, L.P., one of the nation's preeminent private equity firms, has become its lead sponsor and will join its Board of Directors. "Leonard Green & Partners is proud to sponsor the California Academic Decathlon, an organization that makes a difference in the lives and futures of thousands of high school students across our state," said John Danhaki, Managing Partner for Leonard Green & Partners.

"As soon as they learned our organization was in jeopardy, they called and asked how they could help," said Jeff McCombs, President of the Board for the California Academic Decathlon. "We are extremely excited to be able to benefit from Leonard Green & Partners' generous financial support and commitment to our mission of encouraging, acknowledging and rewarding academic excellence in all California high schools. As such, it is our honor to have them as our name sponsor -- California Academic Decathlon Presented by Leonard Green & Partners -- and we look forward to working with them for many years to come."

About The California Academic Decathlon

The California Academic Decathlon is a statewide, non-profit organization that promotes an educational experience by providing a format in which teams of nine high school students compete in academic events. All California public and private high schools are eligible to compete. The Academic Decathlon embodies a partnership of business, foundations and individuals in cooperation with the education community and county offices of education. The competition components are Art, Music, Language & Literature, Social Science, Science, Mathematics, Economics, Speech, Interview and Essay. There are currently over 500 high schools in 42 counties and districts participating in the California Academic Decathlon. The makeup of each of the nine member teams must include three A students, three B students, and three C or below students. Since the national competition began in 1982, California has performed in a superior manner, winning 10 national titles and posting 11 second place finishes.

About Leonard Green & Partners, L.P.

Leonard Green & Partners, L.P. is the largest private equity firm in Southern California, managing in excess of \$3.7 billion of private equity capital. The firm specializes in organizing, structuring and sponsoring management buy-outs, going private transactions, and recapitalizations of established public and private companies. Founded in 1989, Leonard Green & Partners, L.P. has

significant investments in Asian Media Group, FTD Group, Leslie's Poolmart, Liberty Group Publishing, Phoenix Scientific, Rand McNally, Rite Aid Corporation, and Varsity Brands.

Contact:

California Academic Decathlon
Jeff McCombs, 408-314-0190

Source: California Academic Decathlon

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