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**Cambridge College and Project Hope Team Up  
To Serve Dudley Street Neighborhood**

**CAMBRIDGE**— For Cambridge College, no child left behind begins with the idea that no adult is left behind. For this reason, Cambridge College has been awarded a \$70,000 grant by the Mabel Louise Riley Foundation to lay the groundwork for what the College hopes will become a true “neighborhood college” in the Dudley Street neighborhood of Roxbury. What began with a dialogue with the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI) has now become a dynamic collaboration between Cambridge College and Project Hope, which provides a wide array of vital services to neighborhood residents.

There is a tremendous need for Dudley early care workers to take college courses and earn degrees, as there is a state mandate for child care center staff to earn college degrees and it may soon be required of licensed family day care providers. Cambridge College and Project Hope will train a group of 20 low-income early care workers from the greater Dudley neighborhood and provide them with a package of credit bearing courses, leading to a certificate in Early Care and Education.

“Cambridge College is committed to the principles and process of community building,” says Joel Nitzberg, Director of Cambridge College’s Institute for Lifelong Learning and Community Building. “We are extremely excited about the prospect of working with the people and organizations of the Dudley Street Neighborhood.”

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In partnership with local organizations and residents, Cambridge College's program will improve the economic and civic life in Dudley by providing critically needed job training and access to higher education. Less than two-fifths of Dudley Neighborhood families earn incomes that enable them to maintain economic self-sufficiency; these families need access to improved employment opportunities. Only 7% of Dudley Square residents have attained a Bachelor's degree or higher, limiting their career opportunities and earnings potential.

"This partnership between Project Hope, Cambridge College and the Riley Foundation will have a great impact on families from the Dudley community because we can extend the resources of higher education more deeply in our community," said Elizabeth Zarrella, Director of Development & External Affairs for Project Hope. "Child care workers will gain the educational skills to better their career prospects, the children they serve stand to gain from higher-quality care, and Project Hope's classroom space in our new building will be used to broaden opportunities for the community. This is a partnership that can lead to unlimited potential for the community."

The initial program will begin in mid-February and will continue for one year. Cambridge College is currently looking for a neighborhood coordinator to develop a more extensive program to continue beyond this year. For more information, please call Mr. Nitzberg at 617-873-0218. To reach Ms. Zarrella at Project Hope, please call 617-442-1880, ext. 203.

Founded in 1971, Cambridge College is a private, non-profit institution dedicated to providing academically excellent, time-efficient, and cost-effective higher education for a diverse population of working adults for whom those opportunities may have been limited or denied. Cambridge College has sites in Cambridge, Springfield, Lawrence, Chesapeake (VA), Augusta (GA), Ontario (CA), and San Juan (Puerto Rico), and are all committed to the Cambridge College model of making higher education available to all.

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