



# Cambridge College

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Cambridge College Chancellor to Speak at Special Legislative Briefing** Briefing will focus on higher education programs that serve preschool teachers

**BOSTON, MA**— Cambridge College Chancellor Eileen M. Brown will speak at a special Legislative Briefing scheduled for Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Massachusetts State House which will focus on higher education programs that serve preschool teachers.

The meeting will be hosted by the Aspire Institute at Wheelock College and the CAYL Institute at Cambridge College, with the purpose of informing Massachusetts state legislators how the field of early care education can be improved to adequately and appropriately respond to the growing and diverse needs of teachers and students by increasing the capacity and enhancing the quality of higher education teacher preparation programs. Research has continually shown that in order for children to have exceptional, high quality early care and education, they must have teachers and staff with specialized knowledge, skill and experience. In a newly released paper, eight national organizations—Aspire Institute, The CAYL Institute, The Council for Professional Recognition, National Black Child Development Institute, National Head Start Association, National-Louis University, Pre-K Now and Wheelock College—request that every college president ask: What is the current state of our early care and education programs? And, how can we make them better?

“This legislation is important for the children of the state of Massachusetts,” said Chancellor Brown. “At a young age, children need the stimulation that an academic setting provides to prepare them for their future.”

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Cambridge College is working in the community to help remedy this situation. In a pilot program, Cambridge College and Project Hope trained a cohort of 22 low-income early care workers from the greater Dudley Square neighborhood in Boston and provided them with a package of credit bearing courses, leading to a certificate in Early Care and Education. This program stemmed from the tremendous need for 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. The Mabel Louise Riley Foundation has approved a second grant in support of expanding this program for 2008-09.

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, and Lawrence, MA; Memphis, TN, Chesapeake, VA; Augusta, GA; Ontario, CA; and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

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