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**Cambridge College Expands the Licensed Marriage and Family
Therapy Program to its Springfield Regional Center**

SPRINGFIELD, MA— The Cambridge College Springfield Regional Center is adding the Licensed Marriage and Family Therapy (LMFT) program to its curriculum beginning in the summer 2009 term in order to respond to a growing demand for this profession.

“Marriage and Family Therapy is a growing profession,” said Center Director Dr. Richard Turner. LMFT is increasing in importance in Massachusetts due in part to the 2002 *Rosie D. vs. Romney* class action lawsuit filed in a federal court on behalf of children with psychiatric disabilities. In 2006, it was ruled that Massachusetts had violated the Medicaid Act by not having enough resources and services for seriously emotionally disturbed children. As a result, Dr. Turner said Massachusetts is “currently changing its behavioral health system to create the Children’s Behavioral Health Initiative which will require a more intensive focus on family and children systems.”

Dr. Maybelle Mercado-Martinez, Coordinator of the Counseling Psychology Program at the Cambridge College Springfield Regional Center, describes the Marriage and Family Therapy profession as one in which therapists treat a wide range of serious clinical problems including depression, marital problems, anxiety, individual psychological problems, and child-parent problems. “A family’s patterns of behavior influences the individual and so we may need to make the family system a part of the treatment plan,” she said.

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The program is 71 credits and upon completion a student will earn a Master of Education and will be eligible to apply for dual licensure for both a License in Marriage and Family Therapy as well as a License in Mental Health Counseling (LMHC), which allows an individual the flexibility to run and supervise counseling services.

This Master of Education degree program includes field based experience to appropriately prepare individuals to enter this field. Dr. Turner said that agencies in the Springfield community have already approached the College and asked for possible practicum internship students to be sent to their businesses and organizations. “Agencies in the area are enhancing their family therapy options and are looking for qualified personnel,” he said.

For more information regarding or to enroll in the LMFT program, please call 1-800-829-4723 x6622 or email Teresa.forte@cambridgecollege.edu.

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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