

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Binah Palmer, Conference Public Relations, binah@mavinfoundation.org
Matt Kelley, MAVIN Foundation Founder/President,
mattk@mavinfoundation.org
Ph: 206.622.7101, Toll-free: 888.776.2846, Fx: 206.622.2231

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE MIXED RACE EXPERIENCE

"(Em)powering the Mixed Race Community" APRIL 4-5-6, 2003

(Seattle, WA) The MAVIN Foundation National Conference on the Mixed Race Experience will take place April 4-6, 2003 at Seattle University in Seattle, Washington. Five hundred students and professionals will converge for the largest-ever 3-day conference exploring the mixed race experience. The conference aims to create a sense of community among mixed race and transracially adopted young people and to help educate parents and professionals about this rapidly growing population. The conference is hosted by MAVIN's two mixed race student organizations: Hi'brid at Seattle University and Mixed at the University of Washington.

Census 2000 marked the first time that Americans could check more than one race to describe themselves. Nearly seven million did so. In states like Washington and California, more multiracial babies are born than any other race but Caucasian. This national conference will provide historic and unparalleled access to resources, workshops, and networking opportunities for students, parents, educators and social workers alike. For the first time, the conference will combine both a Student track and a Parents/Professionals track. First started in 1993, the Student track will feature an exciting full day of leadership and skills training workshops for multiracial and transracially adopted student leaders. The goal is to create a national coalition of mixed-race and transracial adoptee student organizations to shape policy and guide the mixed race student movement. The Parents/Professionals track will offer state-of-the-art information about mixed race and transracially adopted youth to parents, educators, social workers and health professionals.

The conference aims to cement a sense of community among the mixed race/ transracial adoptee community by creating a national coalition, identifying and supporting our community's emerging leaders, and by mobilizing our community through progressive social action. Furthermore, in a post-9/11 America on the brink of war, conference organizers hope that the unique mixed race/transracial adoptee perspective on race can offer new ideas on how humans can live together and prosper in our multicultural world.

In order to make conference attendance possible for all students, scholarships are available to defray travel and registration costs. Scholarships applications and registration forms are available online at www.mavin.net/conference on the register page by clicking on the "El Camino" icon. If they don't appear, refresh your browser. There is no deadline for applications; however the committee will begin reviewing the first round on February 1st. Applications should be submitted to Lauren Burns at ljburns@u.washington.edu or by fax to (206) 622-2231. The conference marks MAVIN Foundation's fifth anniversary as the nation's leading organization celebrating mixed race people and families. In honor of this milestone, the conference will include a semi-formal dinner, awards ceremony and anniversary gala.

MAVIN Foundation is a 501-(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is redefining diversity through innovative projects celebrating mixed race youth and families. In 2000, nearly seven million Americans were able to check multiple races on their census forms for the first time. In cities like Seattle, San Antonio and Sacramento, nearly one in six babies born is multiracial. Innovative projects like MAVIN Foundation's MAVIN magazine and our award-winning MatchMaker Bone Marrow Project provide a unique forum to increase awareness of the changing face of our multicultural society.

For more information, please visit www.mavinfoundation.org.

For more information on conference hosts and partners, please visit:

Hi'brid at Seattle University www.mavinfoundation.org/hibrid.html

MiXed at the University of Washington <http://students.washington.edu/mixed>

Association of MultiEthnic Americans (AMEA) www.ameasite.org

Hapa Issues Forum (HIF) www.hapaissuesforum.org

Swirl, Inc. www.swirlinc.org

Vietnamese Adoptee Network (VAN) www.van-online.org

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Matt Kelley
Founder/President

MAVIN Foundation
600 First Avenue
Suite 600
Seattle, WA 98104
Ph: 206.622.7101
Fx: 206.622.2231
www.mavinfoundation.org
mattk@mavinfoundation.org

MAVIN Foundation redefines diversity through innovative projects celebrating mixed-race people and families.