



**LEVEL PLAYING FIELD**  
INSTITUTE

**For Immediate Release**

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**For Immediate Release**

**Local Diversity Scholarship Program Receives \$1 Million Donation to Help  
Serve Additional Students & Launches \$2 Million Campaign**

**San Francisco, CA (May 10, 2006)** Mitch Kapor, founder of Open Source Applications Foundation, recently donated \$1 million to Level Playing Field Institute's Initiative for Diversity in Education and Leadership Scholars Program (IDEAL). His donation will kick start a \$2 million campaign that will allow an additional 31 students to become IDEAL Scholars over the next five years.

IDEAL Scholars are provided with resources and support during their college years. In addition to financial scholarships, which replace student loans and workstudy, IDEAL scholars receive access to an on-campus advisor, valuable summer internships related to their areas of interest, computer loan program, leadership training, and a strong network of support on campus. Selected scholars have notable leadership potential; individuals who will make an impact in their communities through their careers, activism, and/or academic/scientific research. They are aspiring medical researchers, lawyers, educators, public service agents of change, business entrepreneurs, engineers, scientists, and more.

Each year, IDEAL is only able to select 10 students to its scholarship program. Kapor's donation has helped to kick start the non profit's planned goal of increasing the number of students it serves over the next five years. The planned expansion will cost a total of \$2 million. IDEAL must now work to raise another \$1 million over the next three years to successfully meet its goal of covering the entire five-year expansion.

If successful, the \$2 million challenge will allow IDEAL to admit 31 more students over the next five years. Often these students are the first in their families to attend college. Many are immigrants themselves who have been in the United States for fewer than seven years. The majority come from "urban" school districts where they must deal with outdated textbooks, limited access to counselors, having substitute teachers on a regular basis, and poor to nonexistent technology. Some of the students are undocumented immigrants, and without private scholarship help must give up their dreams of attending a four year university, even though they've earned their acceptance letters by academic excellence and overcoming daunting obstacles.

*"The impact IDEAL has made in the lives of these students is enormous. It feels great to be able to support this program and to be in a position to allow more students access to the crucial resources it provides,"* said Kapor.

Kapor donated the funds after attending the IDEAL Recruitment Reception, held on April 9, 2006. This event was the largest reception yet, with over 70 high school seniors who have just been admitted to UC Berkeley eager to become an IDEAL Scholar. At the start of the reception, IDEAL expected to select only ten new students; but with the help of Kapor's donation, it now has the opportunity to double the number of students this year.

*"In years past, IDEAL has had to turn away many highly qualified students who would benefit from this program,"* said Cedric Brown, Director of Higher Education at Level Playing Field Institute. *"Mr. Kapor's donation will allow us to immediately enroll more students as well as help us work toward our larger goal of expansion."*

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IDEAL is supported primarily through individual contributions, as well as through corporate grants from Reed Smith LLP, California Statewide CDC, The Heffernan Group, Hilton Hotels Corporation, HSBC, Men's Wearhouse, Morrison & Foerster, and Nordstrom.

**About the Initiative for Diversity in Education and Leadership Scholars Program (IDEAL)**

IDEAL is a program whose vision is to ensure that California benefits from leaders who represent broad demographics of the state. Such representation is important as the percentages of Latino and Black Californians, now 40% of the total population (2000 US Census), continues to grow. In addition to financial scholarships, which replace student loans and workstudy, IDEAL scholars receive access to an on-campus advisor, valuable summer internships related to their areas of interest, computer loan program, leadership training, and a strong network of support on campus. Currently, there are 37 undergraduate students in the program: 43% Black, 41% Latino/Hispanic, and 16% multiracial. Since the first class of students was admitted in 2001, we have had 93% retention. Sixty percent of these students are the first to attend a four-year college in their families. IDEAL is a program of Level Playing Field Institute.

**About Level Playing Field Institute**

Founded in 2001 by Dr. Freada Kapor Klein, the *Level Playing Field Institute's* mission is to promote innovative approaches to fairness in higher education and the workplace by removing barriers to full participation. Through our programs, the Level Playing Field Institute aims to expose and break down hidden barriers that prevent individuals from reaching their full potential. Our vision is that all students, regardless of socio-economic status, will have opportunities to apply to and graduate from top colleges and universities. As a result, our communities and workplaces will benefit from well-prepared, competitive leaders representing broad perspectives and sectors of society.

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