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SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS TO BECOME JOURNALISTS & FILMMAKERS FOR AMERICAN PROGRAM

ProjectExplorer Kicks-off Mentoring Program at Mpontsheng Secondary School in Katlehong

New York, NY. February 7, 2008 - On February 26th, NYC-based NGO ProjectExplorer will kick-off the *Student to Student* program at Mpontsheng Secondary School in Katlehong. ProjectExplorer's *Student to Student* initiative is a new hands-on education program created to encourage high school students to develop communication and professional skills through the use of digital media.

Under the mentorship of Jenny M. Buccos (ProjectExplorer's Founder/Director) and Ilana Fayerman (Journalist/Producer), students will learn to research, write, produce, film, photograph, and present a series of short news reports, interviews, and features focusing on issues relevant to their own lives.

The *Student to Student* program aims to provide a creative outlet and educational experience for those students participating locally, but also to provide ProjectExplorer's young global audience with a look at the everyday life and concerns of young adults living in South Africa.

The *Student to Student* program is sponsored by Dean's Beans Organic Coffee Company based in Orange, Massachusetts. (www.deansbeans.com). Dean's Beans owner, Dean Cycon is actively involved in educational and community improvement programs around the world. "There is nothing more important than educating children and helping them achieve the sense of self-respect that accompanies a good education," said Cycon.

The *Student to Student* program is running in conjunction with ProjectExplorer's third film series; their second program focusing on the history and culture of South Africa. Scheduled for completion in Spring/Summer 2008, South Africa: Part II will be a collection of interviews with prominent South Africans.

"In addition to educating students globally about South Africa's history and culture, our programming aims to address preconceived notions and misconceptions people may have about the country by letting prominent South Africans tell the country's story in their own words," said Buccos.

Once completed, all films, including those created by student at Mpontsheng Secondary School, will be available for viewing by a global audience at: www.projectexplorer.org

NOTES

Founded in 2003 by Jenny M. Buccos, ProjectExplorer is an American not-for-profit organization that produces free online films and multimedia programming, incorporating photos, audio segments, travel essays, and encyclopedia-style research. Rooted in the belief that travel is the ultimate learning experience, ProjectExplorer's programming is produced for a young adult and family audience.

South Africa: Part I debuted in October 2007 and contains approximately 50 short films, each 3-5 minutes in length. Segments in the series provide ProjectExplorer's global audience of more than 400,000 viewers with a cultural and historical look at South Africa. All films and programming are available at NO cost at: www.projectexplorer.org

Mpontsheng Secondary School is located east of Johannesburg, in the township of Katlehong, one of the most underserved areas in the region in terms of community development.

Media Kit available at: http://projectexplorer.org/mediakit_07_08.pdf

IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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