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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR PARENTS AS TEACHERS RECEIVES PEW FUNDING
TO HOST BUSINESS LEADER SUMMIT**

Economic impact of investing in children will top agenda

ST. LOUIS (March 3, 2009) – The [National Center for Parents as Teachers](http://www.ParentsAsTeachers.org) recently received one of 13 national grants from the Partnership for America’s Economic Success (managed in part by The Pew Charitable Trusts) to lead a statewide Business Leader Summit on Early Childhood Investment in partnership with the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank, the Missouri State Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Missouri Early Childhood Coordinating Board and the Missouri Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

The purpose of the summit is to engage business leaders in making investments in children a national priority by sharing emerging evidence on the economic benefits of investments in young children. The Missouri Business Leader Summit will be held this Fall at the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank.

“We are very excited to be working with these high-level partners to help Missouri business leaders understand the critical role they play—and the return on investment they stand to receive—by investing in children,” said Susan Stepleton, president and CEO of the National Center for Parents as Teachers. “We don’t have to wait 18 to 20 years for a positive return; employers can see the value in supporting parents now. With a \$7 return per \$1 invested, it’s why businesses are choosing to strengthen today’s families and build tomorrow’s workforce.”

The Missouri Summit is funded, in part, by the Partnership for America’s Economic Success, which is managed by The Pew Charitable Trusts with financial support from Scholastic, Inc. Organizers also will receive business outreach tools and materials developed through the Partnership’s national summits, the next of which will be held in Telluride, Colo., from Sept. 20 to 22, 2009.

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National Center for Parents as Teachers receives funding, cont'd.

“The National Center for Parents as Teachers will be leading the effort to engage regional business leaders as advocates for the proven early childhood policies that will help Missouri build the workforce needed to compete in the 21st Century,” said Sara Watson, director of the Partnership for America’s Economic Success. “Our nation and our states are made strongest when we invest in programs with the best evidence for starting all children on a path to success, and it is important that the business community conveys that message.”

“This summit taps Parents as Teachers’ expertise in making early childhood education programs effective in achieving long-term education goals,” Stepleton notes. “According to research published in 2008, Parents as Teachers in combination with preschool appear to narrow the ‘achievement gap’ at kindergarten entry and again at third grade. This has strong implications for graduation rates and ultimately, a prepared workforce.”

The grant award comes in the midst of Parents as Teachers’ 25th anniversary campaign, which is aimed at strengthening its network of state, national and international family support programs. During the past 25 years, the National Center for Parents as Teachers has helped millions of parents embrace their role as their child’s first and most important teacher by offering home visits, group meetings with other families, developmental and health screenings, and connections to community resources. The National Center supports Parents as Teachers programs through advocacy, training, research and program support.

About the Partnership for America’s Economic Success

The Partnership for America’s Economic Success was created by a group of business leaders, economists, advocates and 13 funders to document the economic impacts to the nation of proven investments in children from before birth to age 5, and to engage business leaders as champions for young children. The Partnership is managed by The Pew Charitable Trusts. For more information, please visit www.PartnershipforSuccess.org.

About the National Center for Parents as Teachers

Based in St. Louis, the National Center for Parents as Teachers is the resource base and backbone of Parents as Teachers, the nation’s largest evidence-based parent education program. The nonprofit National Center oversees approximately 3,000 programs offering Parents as Teachers services to families with children under 5 across the country and around the world. For more information about Parents as Teachers, visit www.ParentsAsTeachers.org.

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