



News Release

Marisela Cadena-Smith P: 972.758.3896 mcsmith@ccc.edu

COLLIN COLLEGE HOSTS FAMILY VIOLENCE CONFERENCE

Sept. 7, 2007 – According to the U.S. Department of Justice, approximately one in 20 college women are victims of rape or attempted rape annually, and only 27 percent of sexual assault and family crimes are actually reported to law enforcement. In addition, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety, in 2004 more than 2,500 family violence arrests were reported in Collin County alone. This translates to nearly seven family violence arrests each day. To address this issue, Collin College will host the fifth annual Facing Family Violence conference Thursday, Oct. 18-Friday, Oct. 19 at the college's Spring Creek Campus conference center in Plano.

The annual project of the Collin County Council on Family Violence, the two-day conference will feature speakers from diverse backgrounds and address topics such as family justice centers, dual arrest and intimate partner violence, family roles, substance abuse trends, trauma intervention, youth and sexual behavior, self mutilation, investigating head trauma, postpartum emotions; South Asian, elderly, gay, lesbian, transgender and child victims and a case study of the John Battaglia capital murder trial.

Collin College has been a member of the Junior League-initiated Collin County Council on Family Violence since its inception in 1999. With more than 55 member organizations, the council includes representatives from local government, law enforcement, the district attorney's office, probation, business, social services, faith communities, education, legal and healthcare fields. The council's mission is to eliminate and respond to family violence with a coordinated, comprehensive, effective effort addressing education, intervention and seamless 24-hour assistance.

In addition to the conference, an exclusive, first-time showing of the AMS Production Group's film "Portrait of Abuse: An American Epidemic" will be shown Friday, Oct. 19 at 1:45 p.m. The high-definition film is a compelling look at abuse through a variety of perspectives. Featuring interviews with victims, abusers, doctors, nurses, shelter care advocates, social workers and prosecutors, the film offers solutions and a hopeful outlook to a situation of epidemic proportions.

The screening is free and open to conference attendees and the general public. A question and answer session with Sara Ivey, producer/director, and Mark McGovern, executive producer, will immediately follow the screening. DVDs of the film will be on sale, with a portion benefiting the Collin County Council on Family Violence. For more information about the film, visit www.portraitofabuse.com.

Viewed world-wide by close to 1,000 different audiences, the monologue “Flowers Aren’t Enough” will be performed by Naomi Ackerman Thursday, Oct. 18 from 12:30-2 p.m. The one-woman show centers on an abused woman whose story is comprised of victims’ real experiences. Collin students, staff and faculty are invited to attend this performance for free, and professors are encouraged to bring classes. Seating is limited, and reservations are recommended. Please call Collin Counseling Services at 972-881-5126.

Conference sponsors include the Junior League of Plano, the Collin County Council on Family Violence, the Collin County District Attorney’s office, Texas Health Resources, University Behavioral Health of Denton, the Frisco Police Department, Presbyterian Hospital of Plano, Centennial Medical Center and Collin College.

The conference registration fee is \$120 and includes breakfast, lunch and session material. To register or for more information, call 1-800-477-3729 or visit the website at www.ccc-fv.org

###