



Adults Invited to Early Childhood Education Center *Drum Circle to Raise Money for Program*

On Saturday, April 24, the children's yard at the college's Canyon Country Center for Early Childhood Education (ECE) will be filled with the sounds of beating drums and playful spirits. As part of the college's ongoing 40th Anniversary celebration, the Circle of Friends Drum Circle will take place from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

At the event, guests will be able to release their inner child by playing on drums and other percussion instruments and taking part in a traditional drum circle. Throughout the evening guests will also have an opportunity to tour the facility and learn more about the college's ECE programs, while socializing and enjoying appetizers.

According to the Drum Circle Facilitators Guide, a drum circle is a rhythm-based event that utilizes a variety of hand drums and percussion instruments to empower participants with the ability to create beautiful, spontaneous music.

Drum circles benefit individuals by connecting them to a common purpose of creative self-expression, and are routinely utilized by community groups and organizations to create an environment for joy, expression, team building, stress relief and communication.

Tickets to the Drum Circle event are \$35 per person or \$65 per couple. This is an adult only event. All proceeds from the event will benefit the college's ECE centers, located on both the Valencia and Canyon Country campuses. Proceeds from previous Drum Circle events have been used to purchase classroom materials and equipment and make important building and landscaping renovations.

The Drum Circle is being presented by the College of the Canyons Foundation and the Foundation's "Circle of Friends" group. All instruments and a drum circle group facilitator are provided by event partner, Remo Drums.



"Drumming is a therapeutic way to socialize, play and bring out the spirit of your inner child," said Monica Marshall, director of ECE preschool programs at the college. "Special thanks to the COC Foundation, the 'Circle of Friends,' and Remo Drums for coordinating this wonderful event."

The COC Foundation "Circle of Friends" is a group dedicated to supporting the goals of the Centers for Early Childhood Education at the College of the Canyons campuses.

With the cost of learning materials and services soaring, the ECE Centers have

been fortunate to receive continued support from the "Circle of Friends," which helps maintain the safety of the physical environment and provide the highest quality of learning materials and equipment.

The College of the Canyons Centers for ECE are each committed to providing a high quality educational experience for preschool children ages 3 to 4, while modeling a developmentally appropriate and culturally sensitive learning environment. Featuring a learning environment and preschool program structured around the state's recommended preschool learning foundations, the Centers provide children with a variety of creative materials needed to stimulate learning and social interaction, and curriculum designed to develop and support language arts, math/science, dramatic play, music, movement, social/emotional and creativity skills.

The primary focus of the program is to promote feelings of competence and self-worth that will serve as a strong foundation for the student's future growth and educational development.

For more information about the COC Foundation "Circle of Friends," or to purchase tickets to the Drum Circle event on Saturday, April 24, call (661) 362-3435 or visit www.canyons.edu/offices/Foundation/cececircle.html.

For more information about the COC Centers for Early Childhood Education call (661) 362-3501 or visit www.canyons.edu/departments/CD/default.html.

