NEWS RELEASE

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COLLEGE OF MARIN FOUNDATION CREATES COMMUNITY TASK GROUP TO
STUDY MARINE SCIENCE IN MARIN COUNTY

Bolinas Lab, Curriculum Among Areas of Study

KENTFIELD, Calif., Feb. 13, 2006—The College of Marin Foundation is creating a community task force to study marine science education in Marin County high schools and colleges. The group will work to determine effective uses of curriculum, available personnel and facilities and other resources to increase local interest in the field.

The task group will be chaired by Dr. Alissa Arp, Executive Director of the San Francisco State University Romberg Center, located in Tiburon. Margaret Elliott, Executive Director of the College of Marin Foundation, will serve on the task force, along with representatives from county high schools, College of Marin, Directors from the College of Marin Foundation, marine science related non-profit organizations, and community members.

A key area of review will be the College of Marin’s Bolinas Marine Lab. Recent assessments conducted as part of the College’s Measure C facilities modernization program found extensive health and structural hazards. Significant mold and other airborne contaminants, unsafe building structures were found during the assessments. Additionally, the lab is located near an earthquake fault line, next to an unstable geologic slope, and in a tsunami zone. As a result of the data gathered during the assessments, the College is not using the facility currently.

The College of Marin Foundation is seeking funding for the effort. It is expected the task force will take 12-18 months for completion of its work.

For more information, contact Margaret Elliott at 415-485-9382.

About College of Marin

College of Marin has been providing exceptional educational opportunities for students of all ages since 1926. Each semester, nearly 8,000 students are enrolled in over 1,100 credit classes. An additional 6,000 students take advantage of the College's many outstanding community education and community services classes. The College administration is located in Kentfield, CA. The College also operates the Indian Valley campus in Novato, CA.

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