

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NOCU Announces Launch Party for First Partner School

No Child Left Unplugged, a nonprofit started by high school student Corey Linehan, will celebrate its launch on March 6 with a kick off celebration at its first partner school, Megan Furth Academy. NOCU is a San Francisco-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with support from Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier and donations provided to the lab by both IBM and the Golden State Warriors Foundation.

The launch party will feature a brief presentation on NOCU, the opportunity to meet those involved in the program, and an exhibition of students' work in the computer lab. Supervisor Alioto-Pier, a member of NOCU's Board of Directors, is scheduled to attend the event.

NOCU was founded by Corey Linehan, now a senior at Stuart Hall High School. When he was a middle school student volunteering at a local public middle school, Linehan realized that the technology curricula and equipment in many schools serving low-income families were unable to keep pace with the rapid pace of innovation; students were left behind in their preparation for adulthood before they even graduated from eighth grade. Linehan started NOCU to bring student tutors into schools and to help ensure that students, regardless of their backgrounds, would graduate with a strong understanding of the digital world and the tools that encompass it. NOCU filed Articles of Incorporation and writing bylaws for No Child Left Unplugged, and received IRS tax-exempt status in 2006.

"I wanted NOCU to be something different and so created a unique model for the organization founded on a firm belief in peer learning and connecting communities," said Linehan. This approach is the cornerstone for NOCU's tutoring program, in which a supporting school (in the pilot, Stuart Hall High School) sends tutors during the day to the recipient school (here, Megan Furth Academy). The tutors then bring a three-pronged philosophy to teaching technology: the understanding that flexible skills arise from a deeply ingrained familiarity with technology, the recognition that technology must always be treated as a means and not an end, and a commitment to safe and ethical use. A lead benefactor and NOCU then round out the involved parties by providing the necessary funds, equipment, and services. For the pilot, IBM donated the computers, while the Golden State Warriors foundation provided the funds to remodel the new lab. The recipient school, Megan Furth Academy, is an independent K-8 Catholic school in San Francisco primarily serving students from the Western Addition.

Corey and NOCU's work have been recognized with awards by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Mayor's Office, the California State Assembly, and the US House of Representatives. Just this month, the Prudential Service of Community Awards announced that Linehan is a Distinguished Finalist, recognizing NOCU as among the six best service programs run by high school students in the state of California. Join Supervisor Alioto-Pier, Megan Furth Academy Principal Nicole McAuliffe, NOCU founder Corey Linehan, and the children of Megan Furth Academy at our kick off celebration on March 6 at 3:30 PM at 2445 Pine Street, San Francisco. Please RSVP to info@nocu.org.

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About NOCU

No Child Left Unplugged (NOCU) is an IRS-recognized 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to bridging the digital divide through education. Our mission lies in developing best-in-class technology programs at schools that cannot otherwise afford them, focusing on a curriculum designed to build expertise, confidence, and intuition with computers – the best way to ensure skills that remain useful in the long term. You can learn more about the organization and its mission at www.nocu.org.



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