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For Immediate Release

Federal Hill House To Kick-off State's First Trilingual Immersion Program With Enrollment Reception

PROVIDENCE, RI, August 19, 2011—The Federal Hill House Association (FHHA) will unveil Rhode Island's first early learning trilingual immersion program, *Speak to Succeed*, at an open house and enrollment reception on Thursday, August 25th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the agency's center on Courtland Street in Providence. The program is being implemented by FHHA in partnership with Global Language Project, an innovative non-profit organization addressing equality in education through foreign-language learning programs. Immersion programs use the subject language as a teaching tool. The open house will also include a center tour. Languages to be taught are Chinese (Mandarin), Spanish, and English.

"Today's parents are looking for learning programs that not only work well but offer great value," says Nina Pande, executive director, Federal Hill House Association. "Our program does both. Studies clearly show that early childhood education is among the best investments around. As Rhode Island's first early learning center to offer a trilingual immersion program, FHHA wants to deliver on the promise of multilingual learning through careful, systematic curriculum creation, a rigorous teacher selection, evaluation, and training process, regular checkpoints for student development, and engaging, interactive classroom activities that transcend rote learning."

"For the last three years, we have seen success in our programs throughout New York City," says Angela Jackson Founder and Executive Director of Global Language Project. "Today is a special day because its the first time we have the opportunity to expand into another state and bring to Providence's students a language curriculum that will prepare them to reap the benefits afforded by our ever-growing global economy"

Language immersion is a unique but proven method of teaching another language. Unlike traditional teaching approaches where the target language is the subject material, immersion uses the target language as a teaching tool, "immersing" the student in the language. In-class activities, such as math or science, and those outside the class, including meals and everyday tasks, are conducted in the target language. Culture and traditions are also covered. A number of different immersion programs have evolved since the method was first introduced in Canada in the 1960s.

Studies show that children who learn a second language at early ages enjoy huge benefits. They include:

- Increased overall cognitive abilities including mental flexibility, creativity, problem solving, and retention
- Better performance and higher scores on standardized tests and tests of basic skills (English, math, vocabulary and social studies)
- Increased self-esteem and confidence through a sense of accomplishment
- Fostered sense of cultural awareness reflecting today's globalized world.

These studies also show that babies, toddlers, and pre-school children have a natural proclivity to learning languages and to develop near native-like pronunciation.

FHHA's new program is based on the Creative Curriculum® Model for Preschool and paired with educational components from the Global Language Project. (www.globallanguageproject.com). GLP's mission is to equip students with foreign-language skills that will help them better compete in globalized world and workforce. Through GLP's comprehensive language-training program, students achieve fluency in a language other than English. The curriculum emphasizes traditional and experiential learning and was created by leading educational professionals. For more information about GLP and its programs, email info@globallanguageproject.org.

About the FHHA

The Federal Hill House Association is a Providence human services agency serving a diverse community and delivering a wide range of client-focused services. Founded in 1887, it was formed as a settlement house to help Italian immigrants become acclimated to the New World and assimilate into the community. Today, the Federal Hill House has evolved into a multi-ethnic, social service nonprofit agency offering services designed to improve quality of life.

For more information about the Federal Hill House Association's open house or to register for its new language learning program, contact the Federal Hill House Association, 9 Courtland Street, Providence, RI 02909, Tel: 401-421-4722. E-mail: fhh@federalhillhouse.org

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