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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Touro College Offers New M.S. in Mathematics Education Program to Address Need for Strong Math Teachers

New York, N.Y. – August 20, 2010 –Touro College President and CEO Alan Kadish, M.D. today announced that Touro’s Graduate School of Education, the second largest graduate school of education in New York state, is offering a new Master of Science in Mathematics Education program beginning in September 2010. The program will lead to New York state teaching certification in middle and high school mathematics.

Currently there are more than 4,000 students enrolled in the Graduate School of Education.

“Touro College always strives, as part of its mission to provide quality programs that meet the educational needs of our communities, to support efforts that will improve student performance. Our new program will create highly skilled middle and high school math teachers who will be able to fill a tremendous need,” said Dr. Kadish. “In addition to providing courses in teaching methods and mathematics content, Touro will partner with both urban middle and high schools to provide our aspiring teachers with supportive field experiences.”

Dr. Lamar Miller, dean of the Graduate School of Education at Touro College, concurred: “We are very excited about the new program, most importantly because we will be able to fill a great demand for strong math teachers to help educate our children.”

The United States faces a critical shortage of highly qualified mathematics and science teachers that will require an additional 283,000 teachers in secondary school settings by 2015, according to data provided by the National Center for Education Statistics. Furthermore, it is predicted that more than a third of the nation’s 3.2 million teachers are facing retirement. In addition, one of every three new teachers leaves the profession within five years, according to the National Commission on Teaching and America’s Future, a nonprofit research advocacy group.

“Naturally, the schools hit the hardest by these teacher shortages are those located in low-income areas,” Dr. Miller said. “The U.S. cannot expect to successfully compete in global markets if we cannot produce young men and women proficient in mathematics. Therefore, it is imperative that we educate qualified mathematics teachers to help students reach their full potential.”

The new program offers 13 courses for a total of 39 credits. Students will be able to take courses in the evening as well as online. Unlike other graduate programs in mathematics education, Touro's program requires that students take four methods courses: two general mathematics methods courses and two content-specific methods courses.

Dr. Brenda Strassfeld, chair of the program, said, "Research has shown that while knowledge of mathematics is necessary for effective teaching of the subject, it is not enough. That is why we have included content-specific methods courses in our program. Fieldwork placements that provide experience applying the methods learned in the classroom are also required for us to reach our goal, which is to empower all students in mathematics."

For more information on the new program, contact Dr. Brenda Strassfeld at 212-463-0400, ext. 5197 or Brenda.Strassfeld@touro.edu

The Master of Science in Mathematics Education Program provides a comprehensive array of coursework that equally balances instruction in mathematics content areas, evidence-based practices and instructional techniques, and classroom management strategies. The program also ensures that students have a strong knowledge base with respect to integrating theory with practice, student assessment, teacher accountability, data driven decision-making, and resources that mathematics teachers need in order to be effective. Additionally, coursework provides students with a strong quantitative background and training in emerging technologies essential for enhancing critical thinking skills among middle and secondary students.

Touro is a system of Jewish-sponsored non-profit institutions of higher and professional education. Touro College was established in 1971 primarily to enrich the Jewish heritage, and to serve the larger American community. More than 18,000 students are currently enrolled in its various schools and divisions. Touro College has branch campuses, locations and instructional sites in the New York area, as well as branch campuses and programs in Berlin, Jerusalem, Moscow, Paris, and Florida. Touro University California and its Nevada branch campus, as well as Touro College Los Angeles, are separately accredited institutions governed in common by the same Board of Trustees as Touro College. For further information on Touro College, please go to: <http://www.touro.edu/media/>.

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