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**NATICK EDUCATION FOUNDATION TO HOST
BENEFIT SPELLDOWN
Spelling Bee March 5th Spells F-U-N**

FEBRUARY 1, 2002 - Celebrity M.C.'s presiding over fierce, good-humored, competition will make the Natick Education Foundation's Spelling Bee fundraiser the liveliest community event of the year. People of all ages are invited to form or sponsor teams, or to join the fun in the audience on Wednesday, March 5th, at 7:00 p.m. at Natick High School. Audience admission will be free and light refreshments will be served.

Susan Wornick and Janet Wu from WCVB and Matthew Rovner of Ward Rovner and Partners will officiate as teams representing various PTO's, elected officials, community organizations and businesses strive to oust the reigning champions from 2000, the "Morse Institute Library Ladies." The entry fee for each three-person team is \$100 for non-profits (sponsorships are encouraged) and \$500 for businesses.

The proceeds from the Bee benefit the Natick Education Foundation, a non-profit organization that works to stimulate excellence in the Natick Public Schools. The N.E.F. awards thousands of dollars in grants for projects and purchases that support the curriculum, funds professional development for educators, and sponsors the Harriet F. Siegel Shining Light Award, which this year went to retired teacher Virginia Lyster, to honor those who make outstanding contributions to education in Natick or to the community as a whole.

"We expect more than fifty teams to compete," says Tina Furdon, N.E.F. Board Member and volunteer organizer of the event, "both old faces and new." Josh Ostroff, the President of the N.E.F., adds that many local business, MathWorks and Boston Scientific chief among them, are sponsoring teams and donating items and services to raffle for the cause. "The Bee is so much fun and so popular that it's an ideal way to help education and give back to the community," says Ostroff.

For more information about the Natick Education Foundation and applications for the yearly Grants Competition (deadline March 1), please visit www.natickedfoundation.org. For Spelling Bee Team registrations please visit the website or call [REDACTED] at 508/[REDACTED]