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EVENT RELEASE

Wesleyan students invited to enter “Made it to College” video contest and win trip to Sundance Film Festival

FORT WORTH, Nov. 6 – Texas Wesleyan students are among those invited statewide to enter a student video contest, “Reel Life: Overcoming Hurdles to Make it to College,” sponsored by the Texas Film Commission and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The contest is open to any Texas college student, including graduates who earned degrees within the past two years. Contestants can choose from several video categories: short documentary (8 minute max); music video (3 minute max); creative video (3 minute max); news package (1.5 minute max); or a public service announcement (30 second max).

The video entry that most strongly conveys the message that attending college and earning a degree is all within reach and that most creatively portrays overcoming surmounting odds in making it to college will be selected by the judges. The grand-prize winner wins a trip to the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, Jan. 15-25, 2004. Other prizes will be awarded, and all winners and their teachers will be invited to attend an awards gala at the Fort Worth Museum of Modern Art this spring.

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Tom Copeland, director of the film commission, and Commissioner of Higher Education Don W. Brown said in a statement: “We want to see those personal stories on video, stories about overcoming financial hardships, learning difficulties, first-generation college status and other hurdles.”

Contest organizers ask that students who beat the odds or know someone who did and made it to Texas Wesleyan produce amateur videos sharing the ways that they overcame the barriers to achieving a higher education. Winning videos will be distributed to high schools across Texas as part of the college for Texans campaign, a campaign that works to motivate students, parents, and others to promote and aim for higher education.

“We believe that the stories these students share on screen about themselves or someone they know overcoming barriers and making it to college will be an extremely effective part of this campaign,” the statement from Copeland and Brown said.

The deadline for video entries is Dec. 15. The Wesleyan Office of Communications is available to assist in securing video services by calling 817-531-4480.

For more information, contest rules, contest categories and entry forms go to www.collegefortexans.com/ReelLife or call Lynn Denton, campaign director, at 512-427-6210 in Austin.

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