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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Yamhill-Carlton Students to Unveil Drug Prevention Awareness Video

(Yamhill, OR) – A youth-produced video designed to make young people, parents and community leaders aware of the serious issues underlying alcohol, methamphetamine and other drug abuse will premiere Oct. 11 at Yamhill-Carlton High School.

Yamhill-Carlton students helped conceive, write, film and edit the video as part of Oregon Partnership's award-winning Methamphetamine Awareness Project (MAP). In collaboration with the Northwest Film Center and Oregon Partnership, 25 students worked over the past year to produce a compilation of shorts titled *Meth: The Fear Factor*; *Billy's Adventure*; and *MAP: The Introspection*.

The video will premiere at a community event scheduled for 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 11. In addition to unveiling the video, Yamhill-Carlton students will recognize community partners and share their perspectives on the importance of raising awareness about the challenges young people face growing up in rural communities.

Andrew Blubaugh, an award-winning director, worked with Yamhill-Carlton students on their video. Students said the video project taught them valuable skills. They also hope the shorts help bring into focus the many impacts of substance abuse and encourage people to steer clear of alcohol, meth and other drugs.

"It's really important to me that MAP and our movie are about making a difference," said James Thompson, a Yamhill-Carlton sophomore.

"I learned a lot about camera operation, and even more about meth and how harmful it really is," said Tera Prosser, a junior.

Oregon Partnership will post the Yamhill-Carlton students' video on its Web site, www.orphnership.org, and encourage prevention organizations nationwide to utilize it in their educational efforts.

The Yamhill-Carlton premiere marks the end of MAP in several Yamhill County schools. Over the past few years, MAP participants from Sheridan High School produced a powerful 16-minute documentary titled "Meth: Don't Go There." Newberg High School students helped create two broadcast-quality public service announcements about meth. And in Dayton, students produced "Rural Realities: What Goes Unsaid," a film that focuses on youth, alcohol and other drug abuse, and family.

The documentaries and PSAs created by Yamhill County teens will be shown in Portland at a special event at 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 12. The Northwest Film Center will present "RURAL REALITIES: THE METHAMPHETAMINE AWARENESS PROJECT," at the Whitsell Auditorium at the Portland Art Museum, 1219 S.W. Park Ave. Admission is free.

"MAP has not only significantly impacted students in four high schools over the last four years, but it has strengthened community coalition efforts to partner with schools and

parents,” said Donna Libemday, MAP project coordinator with Oregon Partnership. “And it has produced a number of student-created video resources that address methamphetamine abuse and its impact on our communities.”

MAP received the 2004 *Outstanding Youth Leader Award* from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. It also earned the 2004 Oregon Governor’s Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse *Outstanding Youth Achievement Award*.

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About the Northwest Film Center: The Northwest Film Center is a regional arts resource and service organization founded in 1972 to encourage the study, appreciation and utilization of the moving arts, foster their artistic and professional excellence and help create a climate in which they may flourish. The Center has a state-wide outreach filmmaking program that has provided for thousands of youth filmmakers over the past 30 years.

About Oregon Partnership: Oregon Partnership is a statewide nonprofit that has worked to promote healthy kids and communities for well over a decade by raising awareness about drug and alcohol issues, providing prevention education in classrooms, and 24-hour crisis lines for people needing help. To learn more, visit www.orpartnership.org.

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