

Educational Enrichment Foundation
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PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Release

**Lydia-Yasmeen Gecobe Peera Memorial Endowment
for Scholarships to Students In-Need**

The Educational Enrichment Foundation announces the creation of the LYDIA-YASMEEN GECOBPE PEERA MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT that will, once fully funded, provide scholarships to low-income seniors who wish to continue their education at an Arizona college or university. The Endowment was initially funded by Peera's widower, Shiraz Ali Peera, and his brother, Azeem Peera. Gifts toward this endowment are now being accepted at The Educational Enrichment Foundation, 3809 E. Third Street, Tucson, AZ 85716.

Mrs. Peera was an influential TUSD school teacher for 25 years and a recognized community leader who passed away on February 1, 2006. At Doolen Middle School, Lydia organized many programs for the school's culturally diverse students. She believed there was a bright, intelligent person in each child, and she made it her mission to encourage her students and others to discover their full potential. An energetic community organizer, Lydia was recognized as a YWCA "Woman on the Move," and as "Woman of the Year" by the University of Arizona Asian American Faculty, Staff & Student Associations.

Her husband, Shiraz Ali Peera, envisions the Endowment as a lasting and permanent legacy in Lydia's memory to provide continuing education scholarships to low income or indigent students of TUSD. Those who knew Lydia would agree that she would appreciate an effort to help bright, young people who may not otherwise have the means or resources to continue their education.

To contribute to the Endowment, or for more information, please contact Linda Goode, Director of Development at The Educational Enrichment Foundation, 3809 E. Third Street, Tucson, AZ 85716, or by phone: (520) 325-8688.

The mission of Educational Enrichment Foundation (EEF) is to provide resources to expand and enrich student learning in the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD). EEF began in 1983 with a grant from the Ford Foundation to enrich education and learning in TUSD, where 58% of students qualify for free or reduced meal assistance. The first programs provided mini-grants to teachers for special classroom projects. EEF's programs have expanded to provide special needs assistance (shoes, clothing, eye exams and glasses) and scholarships to low income/at risk students. Since its beginnings, EEF has awarded over \$3.5 Million in programs and services to the TUSD family.