



## Press Release

### For Immediate Release

## Hugh O'Brian to Receive NACAC Excellence in Education Award O'Brian to Speak at 62nd National Conference

Alexandria, VA (October 2, 2006) – The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) will present famed actor Hugh O'Brian with the Excellence in Education Award on October 5, 2006 at NACAC's 62nd National Conference at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA.

"Mr. O'Brian's prodigious contributions to the field of education and his commitment to serving students make him an exceptional recipient," said NACAC executive director Joyce Smith. "NACAC is honored to recognize Mr. O'Brian and is grateful for his commitment to students across the nation."

Each year NACAC awards an individual who has improved the field of education and service to students. O'Brian is being recognized for founding Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY). Former winners include Paul Simon, former Secretary of Education Richard Riley, Sen. George V. Voinovich (R-OH) and Columbia University president Lee Bollinger.

O'Brian created HOBY in 1958, following a visit to Africa where he was inspired by Nobel Peace Prize winner, Dr. Albert Schweitzer. Prior to creating HOBY, O'Brian enjoyed a long career on both Broadway and on television, mostly notably for his role as TV's "Wyatt Earp."

"One of the things Schweitzer said to me was that the most important thing in education was to teach young people to think for themselves," O'Brian said. "From that inspiration, and with the support of others who believe in youth and the American dream, I started HOBY to seek out, recognize, and develop outstanding leadership potential among our nation's youth."

Founded nearly 50 years ago, HOBY is America's premier youth leadership organization that recognizes outstanding high school sophomores for their leadership potential and service to their communities. The nation-wide program brings together top high school sophomores with top business, educational, political, and other professionals to encourage students' critical thinking, leadership development, political awareness, community service, and activism. Serving over 350,000 students since its inception, the program continues to receive high praise from world leaders, to garner the volunteer support of those who are leaders in their fields and to produce successful alumni who attribute their leadership ability to the skills and interests that the HOBY program sparked in their lives. More information about HOBY is available at [www.hoby.org](http://www.hoby.org).

NACAC is an Alexandria, VA-based education association of more than 9,200 secondary school counselors, independent counselors, college admission and financial aid officers, enrollment managers, and organizations that work with students as they make the transition from high school to postsecondary education. The association, founded in 1937, is committed to maintaining high standards that foster ethical and social responsibility among those involved in the transition process, as outlined in the NACAC Statement of Principles of Good Practice. More information about NACAC is available at [www.nacacnet.org](http://www.nacacnet.org).

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