



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The International Gifted Consortium, Research Center for the Highly & Profoundly Gifted Receives Staples Foundation Grant

Scottsdale, Arizona (September 6, 2016) – The International Gifted Consortium (IGC) has been awarded funding by Staples Foundation, the private charitable arm of Staples, Inc., through a program called *2 Million & Change*.

Funding provided by Staples Foundation will support the IGC's Education Initiative and Community Outreach Program, *Understanding Giftedness Through the Eyes of the Highly and Profoundly Gifted*. IGC, CEO, Vanessa R. Wood stated, "Education begins with understanding. By effectively communicating the humanistic characteristics, behaviors and educational needs, to all stakeholders, we build understanding, identification and support for this overlooked and grossly underserved, yet extraordinary population. The Staples Foundation is at the forefront of recognition and philanthropic service, we are grateful for their support."

The IGC education calendar includes the SENG Conference in Williamsburg, VA, the AAGT Parent Institute in Phoenix, AZ and collaborations with schools, universities, pediatric groups and policy makers in the state of Florida. "Society more broadly needs to collaborate with this seemingly small yet significant population," stated Vanessa. "In doing so, we gain a deeper, more authentic understanding of individual potential and the exponential value of education for all of our youth. Everyone needs to care. Every child needs fitting experiences and educational opportunities to positively grow and develop. Among us are the change agents, we need to emotionally inspire, physically engage and cognitively challenge each and every child."

Created in 2012, the *2 Million & Change* program is a philanthropic initiative which allows Staples associates around the world to direct funding to non-profit organizations focused on academic education or job skills. In 2015, Staples awarded more than \$2.5 million in grants to 875 local organizations including job readiness for homeless individuals, career exploration for high school students, academic scholarships, mentoring and more.

The International Gifted Consortium (IGC), 501c3

Through Research, Education, Advocacy and Opportunities, we're on a mission to collaboratively understand, identify and support the unique social, emotional, physical, cognitive and altruistic development of Giftedness through the lens of the highly and profoundly gifted. We envision highly and profoundly gifted children nurtured with fitting experiences and educational opportunities allowing each to positively grow and develop; to flourish. www.GiftedConsortium.com

About Staples Community and Giving

Staples contributes to educational and job-related community efforts with a primary focus on disadvantaged youth, from literacy and mentoring to career skills development, through in-kind and monetary donations and grants from Staples Foundation, the private charitable arm of Staples, Inc. Through its community and giving efforts, Staples has helped thousands of organizations in 26 countries. For more information, visit www.staples.com/community

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