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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media is invited – excellent video, photo, interview opportunities

Dancing Classrooms Spring Exhibition Saturday, February 27th at Miromar Outlets

FORT MYERS, FL: The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools' Dancing Classrooms program will hold its spring exhibition at Miromar Outlets on Saturday, February 27th, at 11:00 a.m. Fifth grade students from eight Title I schools in Lee County participate in 10 weeks (20 lessons) of training from certified dance instructors and showcase their skills at the exhibitions and the Colors of the Rainbow culminating event held in April.

Participating schools for the fall session are:

Bonita Springs Elementary

James Stephens International Academy

Littleton Elementary

Tortuga Preserve Elementary

The Dancing Classrooms program utilizes ballroom dancing as a vehicle to build social awareness, confidence, and self-esteem in fifth grade students across Lee County. Now in its eighth year, the program is administered locally by The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, and funded by Miromar Outlets. Dancing Classrooms was brought to The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools in 2008 by Margaret Antonier, Founder and CEO of Miromar Development. Since its inception, the program has grown from 5 schools reaching 325 students in its first year, to 8 schools with more than 750 students. To date, more than 6,000 students have participated in Dancing Classrooms. The final ballroom dancing competition called "Colors of the Rainbow" will be held on April 23, 2016, at Miromar Design Center.

Antonier was inspired to bring this program to the state of Florida after viewing *Mad Hot Ballroom* in 2007. This movie captures the journey taken by a group of fifth graders from lower socio-economic neighborhoods in New York City as they develop social skills through learning the art of ballroom dance. Another movie, *Take the Lead*, depicts the efforts of Dancing Classrooms founder and director, Pierre Dulaine, to utilize ballroom dancing to help NYC youth regain a sense of self-respect, pride and elegance.

About The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools: The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, Inc. is a private, 501(c)3 organization established in 1986. Its mission is to enhance and enrich the quality of public education in Lee County for students and educators through programs, resources, and experiences made possible through corporate, individual, and educational partnerships. The Foundation is rated as a 4-star nonprofit organization by Charity Navigator. Find us online at www.leschoolfoundation.org, on Twitter @FoundationLCPS, and on Facebook.

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If you would like more information about Dancing Classrooms, The Foundation or to schedule an interview with Marshall T. Bower, please call Margo Brewster at (239) 337-0433 or email Margo@LeeSchoolFoundation.org