

For Immediate Release:

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**THE COSMETOLOGY ACADEMY AT DOUGLAS EDUCATION CENTER IS
COLLECTING HAIR CLIPPINGS TO HELP SAVE THE GULF**

MONESSEN, PA., June 1, 2010 – The Gulf oil spill disaster continues to grow, and The Cosmetology Academy at Douglas Education Center is helping to make a difference in confronting this environmental disaster.

The Cosmetology Academy is collecting hair clippings in an effort to help protect beaches threatened by the Gulf oil spill. Students and staff will box up the donations and send them to an environmental group called Matter of Trust, a California-based non-profit organization that collects hair, fur, waste wool, clippings, nylons and funds from salons, groomers, and farmers in order to convert the strands into useful tools that will help to mop up oil spills.

Environmental experts say that human hair is one of the most effective ways of cleaning up and absorbing oil. Collected clippings are sent to warehouses in the Gulf Coast region, to be stuffed into nylon tubes called “booms,” or assembled into hair mats. The giant hair booms can be placed on the beaches as a defense against oil contamination.

With over 210,000 gallons of oil flowing into the ocean each day from a BP oil rig, onshore residents are seeing and smelling the damage that the spill is causing about 40 miles off the Louisiana coast. “It’s our effort to help reduce the impact of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill,” Karen Nelson, director of cosmetology said. “Not only will our clients be coming to The Cosmetology Academy to get a haircut, but they will also be helping to save the earth. It’s a win-win.”

According to Matter of Trust, there are over 370,000 hair salons in the U.S. and each collects approximately 1 pound of hair a day, which does not include clippings from pet groomers.

“If we can help, we want to do it,” added supervisor of cosmetology, Carrie Holman. “We are proud of this effort by our students, faculty and staff to help contain and minimize the damage to the fragile ecosystems in the Gulf and the Gulf Coast states.”

For more information on The Cosmetology Academy at Douglas Education Center please visit www.dec.edu.

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ABOUT DOUGLAS EDUCATION CENTER

Established in 1904, Douglas Education Center (DEC) is the premier creative career institution located in Monessen, PA. DEC creates an educational atmosphere that not only fosters the highest standards of excellence in all students, but also helps these students develop an awareness of social responsibility and ethical behavior. DEC offers programs in special make-up effects, digital film, illustration, graphic design, cosmetology, medical and business. DEC instructors are industry professionals who have actual working knowledge and experience in the programs in which they teach.

ABOUT THE COSMETOLOGY ACADEMY

The Cosmetology Academy utilizes the #1 provider for cosmetology learning solutions, Milady. Students train in an upscale salon environment and also benefit from an in-house clinic open to students, staff, and the public where they can perform their techniques. Cosmetology programs include: Master Cosmetology Program, General Cosmetology Program, Cosmetology Teacher Program, Esthetician Program and Esthetics and Nail Technology.