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Mr. Kordeleski Photo Attached

Contact: Jo Keim
Epoch 5 Public Relations
631-427-1713; jkeim@epoch5.com

Project GRAD Long Island Names Bethpage Federal Credit Union President and CEO Kirk Kordeleski as Chairman of the Board

(*Westbury, NY...* October ____, 2008) Project GRAD Long Island has named Kirk Kordeleski, President & CEO of Bethpage Federal Credit Union as the new Chairman of the nonprofit's Board of Directors. Kordeleski assumed formal responsibilities of Project GRAD Long Island, an independent education-reform organization, on October 1, 2008.

"Project GRAD offers dynamic, collaborative programs to prepare students academically and financially to enter and succeed in college," stated Kordeleski. "The mission to support Long Island's young people is close to my heart and echoes the mission of the credit union I represent. My first objective as Chair of Project GRAD Long Island will be to actively engage the local community, government, businesses, and civic groups in championing our youth in their educational pursuits."

Kirk Kordeleski became involved with Project GRAD Long Island in 2004 through its mentoring program, two years after the organization arrived in Roosevelt under the direction of Daryl Ogden, formerly the Executive Director of Project GRAD Long Island and now the President of Project GRAD USA, the parent national organization. In July 2005, Kordeleski was elected to the Board of Directors. As a mentor, his active role guiding Roosevelt High School student Devyn Clark resulted in the young man's successful entry into college in 2006. During Kordeleski's tenure as a member of the Board, Project GRAD Long Island formed Summer Institutes with Hofstra, Farmingdale, Nassau, and the Dolan DNA Learning Center, whereby high school students from the Roosevelt School District and later, Westbury, profited from enriched learning and a college campus experience, meeting qualifications for the Project GRAD Scholarship Program. Fifty-two Roosevelt students have received a Project GRAD college scholarship to date.

Project GRAD Long Island forged a formal long-term partnership with the Westbury Public Schools in 2007. Nationally, Project GRAD USA has recently achieved federal authorization as an official program of the U.S. Department of Education and has forged partnerships with the Gates Foundation and the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI). Project GRAD Long Island is one of three Project GRAD sites that will directly benefit from the CGI partnership, a distinction it holds alone among Long Island-based education organizations. These partnerships bode well for Kordeleski's tenure as Chairman.

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Kirk Kordeleski Named Chair Of Project GRAD Long Island

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“Kirk Kordeleski is a business leader who has brought considerable resources to Project GRAD Long Island,” said Ogden. “In my years at the helm of Project GRAD Long Island I was able to bring matters to his attention and could count on his expertise to find solutions. The Board and Project GRAD Long Island will be guided well by his many fine qualities, passion for working with young people, and active engagement. We couldn’t have found a better leader of our board than Kirk.”

Under Kordeleski’s leadership, Bethpage Federal Credit Union has grown to become the area’s largest credit union, with \$3 billion in assets, 19 branch locations, and over 140,000 members. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Long Island Association (LIA), Friends of the Arts (FOTA), United Way of Long Island, Nassau County Museum of Art, and USNet, a shared service center network. He was appointed chairman of the Next Generation Housing Committee in partnership with the LIA. In 2003, he was appointed as one of the two credit union members on the Federal Reserve Board’s Thrift Institutions Advisory Council. He serves as Chairman of the Board for Open Technology Solutions, LLC, and as President of Bethpage Management Services, LLC. He sits on the Credit Union National Association’s Governmental Affairs Committee and the Council of Advisors for Community Development Corporation of Long Island.

A resident of Sea Cliff, NY, Kordeleski has been honored by institutions and organizations for his regional leadership; including, among others: Adelphi University, Education and Assistance Corp, and The Mentoring Partnership of Long Island. For the last three years, Kirk has been named as one of Long Island Business News’ *Top 100 Most Influential Long Islanders*.

About Project GRAD Long Island

Project GRAD Long Island is one of 13 Project GRAD sites in the Project GRAD USA network, and the only site in New York. In addition to funding college scholarships to qualified students and summer enrichment programs, Project GRAD offers robust academic interventions, social services support, family engagement programs, and comprehensive college access and college readiness support.

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