



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CHICO'S CEO MENTORS MIDDLE SCHOOLERS *Scott Edmonds Teaches Scholarship Recipients How To Achieve Big Dreams From Smaller Beginnings*

FORT MYERS, Fla., Sept. 21, 2005 – Chico's FAS, Inc. president and CEO Scott Edmonds will host a career guidance workshop for Step Up For Students scholarship recipients at Mt. Herman Christian School at 2856 Douglas Avenue at 10:00 a.m. today. Edmonds, who runs a multi-billion dollar company, will describe how he and his company both emerged from smaller beginnings to achieve great success. The highlight of his visit will be a workshop designed to help students learn how to capitalize on their talents by probing their interests, goals, and future plans for viable career options. Students will then learn to focus on classes, volunteer opportunities, and community organizations that will provide skills and relationships beneficial to the specific career interests they discover.

Chico's has been a corporate sponsor of the Step Up For Students program since 2002, donating \$2.4 million to the program that helps low-income students achieve success by finding the best educational setting for them. "Our visit to Mt. Herman demonstrates our full commitment to Step Up For Students scholarship recipients. Chico's funds scholarships that provide opportunities, but we are also committed to providing guidance, resources, and support. Interacting with these children is as much a good thing for us at Chico's as it is for them," said Edmonds.

The Corporate Tax Credit program – also known as “Step Up For Students” – provides K-12 scholarships that allow over 11,000 low-income Florida students to attend a private school or out-of-district public school. One hundred percent of corporate contributions go directly to funding scholarships – not a single penny can be used for administrative costs. Florida companies continue to embrace the program, with the first month of 2005 recording eight times the amount of corporate donations as the same period last year.

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