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Virginia Icon Final Auditions In Richmond and Fredericksburg
Star Search for Middle and High School Students

Falls Church, Virginia, July 14, 2008 --- Tinsel Town and the Big Apple have no monopoly on finding the next great young vocal music star. Virginia has its own American Idol, the Virginia Icon. A vocal music competition for middle and high school students, the Virginia Icon is a project of the Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center [PEATC], an organization that assists families of children with and without disabilities through education, information, support, and training. Auditions are in Richmond, Saturday, July 19, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., at Hyperlink Café' located at 814 West Grace Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Videotaped segments of the audition will appear on YouTube. The final audition is Saturday, July 26, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at the Rappahannock Area YMCA; 212 Butler Road; Falmouth, VA 22405. Previous auditions were in Northern Virginia and the Alleghany Highlands. The main event is Sunday, October 12, at the Landmark Theater, and Alma Powell, wife of retired General Colin Powell, is honorary chair.

This statewide competition will draw up to twenty semi-finalists to compete in the final competition. Tryouts are open to youth from throughout the Commonwealth. The grand prize is \$1,000, recording studio time, and recognition as Virginia's top teen vocalist. Judges include noted music and media personalities. This year marks the first time the Virginia Icon will recognize a famous talent in the music industry who has Virginia roots, as well as an individual with a disability who is a model for success.

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“We are thrilled to have such strong support for the Virginia Icon,” shares Cherie Takemoto, executive director, PEATC. “For thirty years, we have been a statewide resource for children with disabilities, their families, and the schools they attend. We also offer services, through our Parent Information Resource Center [PIRC], for all Virginia families,” she adds. “The Virginia Icon is our way of showcasing Virginia’s young people at their best, and in many ways they become partners with us to raise critical program dollars in support of the more than 175,000 children, statewide, with disabilities,” she concludes.

The Virginia Icon entry fee is \$10.00. Email Stars@VirginiaIcon.com, call 1-800-869-6782 for registration information and to learn more about the Virginia Icon, or visit us at www.virginiaicon.com. For additional information, contact Patricia Green, at I C Linkages, LLC, 301-526-1089, or patricia.green@iclinkages.com.

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