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MEDIA RELEASE

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THE DREAM INSTITUTE RECEIVES THE A.C.C.E.S.S. AWARD *Co-Founders honored by OK-AHEAD*

(Tulsa, OK) On behalf of the **DREAM (Disability, Resources, Educational Advocacy, Motivation) Institute**, the co-founders, Kristy Long and Rodney Bryan Pratz received the A.C.C.E.S.S. Award from OK-AHEAD (Oklahoma Association for Higher Education and Disability) on Thursday April 29, 2004 at the OK-AHEAD Spring Conference in Shawnee, OK. This annual award stands for Advocacy, Cooperation, and Concern for Encouraging Student Success and is given to individuals or organizations in the community that encourage and advocate for student success.

Long and Pratz accepted this award and told their personal stories of struggling in higher education with their disabilities. Kristy Long has a seen disability, Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis and Rodney Pratz has a hidden disability, dyslexia and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. Both were told that they would not graduate from high school or college. They both have college degrees and are successful in the Tulsa, OK community.

Others who have received this award in the past are: former Tulsa Community College President, Dean Van Trease; Oklahoma State Senator Bernest Cain, Jr. and the General Counsel of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Ned Bastow.

The DREAM Institute was founded by Kristy Long and Rodney Bryan Pratz. They established this institute to assist and increase the educational success of students with disabilities. It is their dream that students with disabilities will be uplifted and encouraged to follow their goals in higher education.

For more information please visit our website, www.dreaminstitute.org or phone 918-588-3600 or e-mail us at dream@dreaminstitute.org

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