

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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I-House Celebrates 84 Years with Two Exciting Announcements: Dining Commons Transformation Project/ Schmidt Matching Challenge

BERKELEY, CA – On August 18, 2014, International House at UC Berkeley will celebrate 84 years of advancing a world of greater understanding with two major announcements:

Dining Commons Transformation Project

International House at UC Berkeley, a residential and program center, long known as a nexus of intercultural programs will break ground on a major renovation of its historic Dining Commons in December 2014. Some 80,000 individuals have lived and dined at I-House since its opening in 1930 and with its distinct atmosphere and ambiance, the interactions and friendships that develop in the Dining Commons lie at the heart of the I-House experience and enhance its mission of advancing a world of greater understanding.

The focus of this project is to improve customer service and interaction between the dining staff and residents, expand the variety of dishes offered, promote energy and water efficiency, create better space utilization, develop a presentation kitchen, and enhance ergonomics for the kitchen working staff. The improvements to the dining area will include refinished furnishings, an elevated performance platform, new A/V equipment and increased hours of access for residents to up to 20+ hours a day. During the renovation period residents will be dining in the Field Club in California Memorial Stadium.

Schmidt Matching Challenge

I-House is an independent, non-profit organization that receives no financial assistance from the University of California for its capital budget so alumni, friends and supporters are asked to contribute vital funds for this project. Upon learning of the Dining Commons Transformation Project at the I-House Gala held on April 10, 2014, I-House alumni Eric and Wendy Schmidt generously gifted \$1 million to jumpstart funding for this multi-million dollar upgrade.

Furthermore, Eric and Wendy Schmidt have pledged an additional \$1 million to serve as a matching challenge for donations to I-House from alumni, friends and supporters. Through this I-House Schmidt Matching Challenge, donations will be matched dollar for dollar up to an additional \$1 million in the next two years.

Wendy Schmidt, President and Co-Founder of The Schmidt Family Foundation and The Schmidt Ocean Institute (SOI), was honored as Alumna of the Year at this year's I-House Gala. She earned her masters degree in journalism at UC Berkeley while residing at International House in the late 1970s. It was there that she met her husband Eric Schmidt, Executive Chairman of Google.

For information about the Dining Commons Transformation Project visit ihouse.berkeley.edu/DCTP

For information about the Schmidt Matching Challenge visit ihouse.berkeley.edu/Schmidtmatch

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International House is a self-supporting, non-profit organization at the University of California, Berkeley. Its mission is to foster understanding and friendship among peoples of all nations and races. With nearly 600 residents on any given day and, since 1930, 80,000 alumni drawn from over one hundred countries and every U.S. state, I-House is one of the largest multinational residential and programming cultural centers in the world.