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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Program Builds Reading Proficiency for Struggling High School, Adult Learners**

Publisher Puts 50 Years of Research to Work with *Cycles*

AUSTIN, Texas – Today Harcourt Achieve announced the release of *Cycles*, an innovative, research-based reading intervention software program that helps struggling high school students and adult learners accelerate achievement.

Based on 50 years of research and development in the field of reading improvement, *Cycles* builds reading proficiency through a proven vocabulary-based approach that results in measurable gains in reading achievement among learners functioning at reading levels 0.5–10.5. This approach integrates vocabulary with phonological awareness, language usage, reading comprehension, reading fluency, writing and listening.

Based on new accountability standards, building reading proficiency has never been more important, Harcourt Achieve CEO and President Tim McEwen says.

At a time when high school educators must conform to No Child Left Behind regulations, the number of struggling adolescent readers and remedial learners is growing, evident in poor exit exams and low graduation rates. In addition, adult education institutions are under similar pressure to raise success rates in compliance with the Adult Basic Literacy Education Act.

“Reading is the gateway through which all academic achievement passes,” McEwen says, “and *Cycles* was developed in response to the need for a better, more cost-effective reading solution.

“*Cycles* is an ideal solution for low-performing schools that have a high dropout rate. It empowers students to drive their own progress – proceeding as their skills and proficiencies improve and ‘re-cycling’ to lower levels as needed. This self-motivated learning provides an ideal scaffold for differentiated instruction.”

Featuring more than 1,000 hours of explicit, systematic reading instruction, practice and application, *Cycles* ensures students gain long-term mastery in vocabulary, phonics, phonemic awareness, fluency and comprehension, McEwen notes.

The program, published under the Steck-Vaughn imprint, also offers a variety of components: software, teacher's manual, books for independent reading, onsite training and installation, CD- and Web-delivered professional development and technical support.

Given today's tight educational budgets, *Cycles* offers solid solutions for budget-strapped administrators, McEwen says.

"No other program is as cost effective per student – costing much less than other competitors – because with *Cycles*, a single instructor can manage an unlimited number of students, maximizing the use of limited staff," McEwen says. "And by increasing instructional capacity, school and district resources are freed up to address other needs."

### **About Harcourt Achieve**

Harcourt Achieve produces learning solutions and content that fundamentally and positively changes the lives of young and adult learners. Published under the Rigby and Steck-Vaughn imprints, its products are based on a developmental philosophy that assesses learners' skills and needs, matches them to appropriate content and accelerates them to meet and exceed expectations. The Steck-Vaughn imprint offers easy-to-use, innovative learning solutions that accelerate content-area knowledge and reading skills, allowing learners to meet and exceed expectations. These targeted resources assess, remediate, strengthen and enhance skills and reading development. The Rigby imprint offers progressive learning solutions for reading instruction that provide differentiated instruction to match students' instructional levels. These products are based on strong instructional pedagogy that supports teachers as they actively guide and assess student progress. For more information, please visit <http://www.HarcourtAchieve.com>.

Harcourt Achieve is part of Harcourt Education, a global education provider serving students and teachers in PreK through grade 12, adult learners and readers of all ages. The Harcourt Education companies are Harcourt School Publishers; Holt, Rinehart and Winston; Harcourt Achieve; Harcourt Assessment; Classroom Connect; Harcourt Canada; Harcourt Religion Publishers, Harcourt Trade Publishers, Greenwood/Heinemann and Heinemann Global Library. For more information, please visit [www.harcourt.com](http://www.harcourt.com).

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