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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Three Harcourt Achieve Titles Honored with Coveted Teachers' Choice Award

AUSTIN, Texas – Austin-based Harcourt Achieve recently won three 2004 Teachers' Choice Awards – more than any single publisher – in *Learning® Magazine's* 10th annual contest.

The Harcourt Achieve award-winners – *Pebble Soup*, *Steck-Vaughn Phonics Build-A-Word Books™* and *Classroom Organization and Management* – went up against 400 other titles, and were among only 64 books honored.

The Teachers' Choice Awards program, which began in 1994, is one of the most recognized contests in the educational market.

“Receiving just one of these awards is validation from the educational community that a product works,” says Carol Wolf, Harcourt Achieve vice president and director of marketing. “That’s because the award judges are PreK–6 teachers who put each book to the test in their own classrooms.”

“*Learning Magazine* is a widely read teacher publication, and these awards recognize curriculum resources that truly help teachers to become better at what they do in a very practical sense,” Wolf says.

“We are confident that these awards will confirm for teachers that these products will deliver quality, ease of use, instructional value and innovation, since these are the basis for which each product is judged.”

Teacher-judges especially liked the multicultural aspects in *Pebble Soup*, a comprehensive literacy program that provides pre-Kindergarten children with a strong literacy foundation. In written critiques, judges said the planned activity cards in particular “allowed for more teacher-child interactions.”

“I used some of the science cards to help children explore science in a fun, relaxed way,” one teacher wrote.

Judges “loved the flip book aspect” of *Steck-Vaughn Phonics Build-A-Word Books*, which team pictures with words to help beginning readers understand a word’s meaning. They gave the series high marks for being user-friendly.

“I like new things that don’t require a lot of prep time,” one teacher wrote. “This was able to be used in the classroom immediately.”

Classroom Organization and Management, a resource that offers instructors tips for everything from setting up the classroom to handling challenging behavior problems, received kudos for its many realistic and effective tips for teachers.

“It’s like a cookbook for new teachers or those wanting to change their way of teaching,” one judge wrote. Another teacher added, “Everyone can get info from it – whether new or seasoned.”

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, 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.

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