

NEWS RELEASE

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READ NOW WITH POWER UP! SHIPPING TO US MIDDLE SCHOOLS

New reading intervention program for struggling readers combines assessment and progress monitoring technology with reading skills instruction

SPECIAL TO NATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (NMSA) CONFERENCE, PHILADELPHIA, Penn. – November 4, 2005 – Renaissance Learning™, Inc., (Nasdaq: RLRN), provider of computerized assessment and progress monitoring tools for pre-K–12 schools, and Harcourt Achieve, publisher of Steck-Vaughn’s educational learning materials and content, have announced the immediate availability of *Read Now with Power Up!*™ for grades 5-9.

Read Now with Power Up! integrates the best of Renaissance Learning’s *Read Now*® reading intervention software with the reading curriculum from Steck-Vaughn’s *Power Up!*®, creating an effective reading intervention program to assist middle school readers.

According to the 2005 National Assessment of Education Progress report, only 33 percent of eighth-grade students read at a proficient level and fewer than 25 percent read at a basic level. Low reading proficiency is of critical importance at the middle-school level because students are falling through the cracks and not meeting AYP.

Read Now with Power Up! is a research-based reading intervention solution for struggling readers using assessment and progress monitoring technology, reading skills instruction and engaging fiction and nonfiction paperback books.

“*Read Now with Power Up!* was created for a very important group of learners – middle school students who are struggling to build the essential reading skills they need to succeed,” said Tim McEwen, president and chief executive officer of Harcourt Achieve. “These students deserve our best resources and our most effective teaching methods. That is precisely what Renaissance Learning and Steck-Vaughn have worked to produce with *Read Now with Power Up!*”

“We believe there is a strong need for an affordable, research-based program that uses some of the most effective teaching methods from Harcourt Achieve combined with our daily progress monitoring programs for middle school struggling readers,” said John Hickey, chief executive officer and president of Renaissance Learning, Inc.

For more information on *Read Now with Power Up!*, visit www.renlearn.com.

Renaissance Learning, Inc.

Renaissance Learning, Inc. is a leading provider of research-based school-improvement programs for pre-K-12 schools and districts. Adopted by more than 67,000 schools, Renaissance Learning daily and periodic progress monitoring systems give students and teachers continuous constructive feedback that helps motivate students, dramatically accelerate learning, improve test scores, and help students master all standards, while reducing teacher paperwork. Renaissance Learning has four U.S. locations and subsidiaries in Australia, Canada, India and the United Kingdom.

Harcourt Achieve

Harcourt Achieve produces learning solutions and content that fundamentally and positively change the lives of young and adult learners. Published under the Rigby, Saxon 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 Rigby imprint offers progressive learning solutions for core reading and English language learner instruction that provide differentiated instruction to match each student's instructional level. The Saxon imprint offers the nation's best selling and most thoroughly researched skills-based mathematics program for grades K-12, as well as popular phonics, K-3 spelling, and early learning programs. The Steck-Vaughn imprint offers easy-to-use, innovative learning solutions that accelerate content-area knowledge, reading skills, and preparation for standards-based tests, allowing learners to meet and exceed expectations. 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 Pre-K 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 Religion Publishers; Harcourt Trade Publishers; Greenwood/Heinemann and Heinemann Global Library. For more information, please visit <http://www.harcourt.com/>.

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