

**NEWS RELEASE**

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RENAISSANCE LEARNING CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF ACCELERATING LEARNING

WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI. – February 01, 2006 – Twenty years ago Judi Paul, co-founder of Renaissance Learning™, Inc., developed reading software that offered educators the best teaching tools for their students. Judi Paul began writing quizzes at her kitchen table on books her children read in an effort to help them develop a lifelong love of reading. Little did she know, Accelerated Reader™ (AR) was in the making, which today is the nation's leading reading management program.

Renaissance Learning, Inc., (Nasdaq: RLRN), a leading provider of computerized assessment and progress monitoring tools for pre-K—12 schools and districts, has grown significantly over the past 20 years – currently offering more than 15 advanced computer-based progress monitoring systems for educators to help their students achieve academic success. The first 15 years brought educators Accelerated Reader, Accelerated Math™, Accelerated Writer™, STAR Early Literacy™, STAR Reading™ and STAR Math™ – which are used in thousands of classrooms across the country.

“Twenty years later, I am happy to report that AR is only getting better with age. Of course, AR and our growing suite of Renaissance programs wouldn't be the success they are today without the educators who have dedicated their lives to accelerating learning using the best research-proven teaching tools available,” said Judi Paul, co-founder of Renaissance Learning. “This year also marks the 100,000th quiz made for Accelerated Reader, which is a great accomplishment.”

Although many enhancements have been added throughout the years, AR's basic purpose has remained unchanged: to motivate student reading and provide teachers with timely, accurate, detailed information they can use to monitor progress, personalize instruction, and build a lasting passion of reading and learning.

In just the last five years with today's new challenges in the classroom, Renaissance learning now offers a language acquisition solution – English in a Flash™, a wireless response system – Renaissance Classroom Response System™, a assessment solution – AssessmentMaster™, a reading intervention solution – ReadNow with PowerUP!™ and an array of one-to-one computing solutions – Neo and Dana, through the acquisition of AlphaSmart™.

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“We have a lot to be proud of – from the kitchen table to becoming a major leader in K-12 education reaching millions of students monthly -- Renaissance Learning has and will continue to develop innovative product progress monitoring systems for the classroom,” said John R. Hickey, chief executive officer and president of Renaissance Learning, Inc.

Superintendents, principals, teachers and librarians from across the country will help celebrate the 20 years February 9–12 during the seventh annual National Renaissance Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Educators will network with others dedicated to educating the nation’s children, participate in professional development training, hear motivational speakers, and view Renaissance Learning’s newest products and services.

During the conference, nearly 100 professional development workshops will be offered on the latest teaching techniques, research, and progress monitoring proven to help educators accelerate learning in the classroom. Keynote speakers include popular author Marc Brown, a best-selling author and illustrator and creator of *Arthur*, the #1 rated children’s television show on PBS, motivational speaker Connie Podesta, author of *Self Esteem and the Six-Second Secret* and *Life Would Be Easy if it Weren’t for Other People*, and Patricia Polacco, author and illustrator of numerous children’s books, including *Emma Kate*, *The Graves Family Goes Camping*, and *Mommies Say Shhh*.

Renaissance Learning, Inc.

Renaissance Learning, Inc. is a leading provider of computerized assessment and progress monitoring tools for pre-K-12 schools and districts. Renaissance Learning products give students and teachers continuous feedback to inform instruction and help teachers and administrators motivate students, dramatically accelerate learning, and improve test scores. Renaissance Learning has seven U.S. locations and subsidiaries in Australia, Canada, India and the United Kingdom.

For more information visit www.renlearn.com.

Source: Renaissance Learning, Inc.

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