

NEWS RELEASE

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MAYA ANGELOU HEADLINES NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE IN FLORIDA

September 19, 2007, Wisconsin Rapids, WI – Thousands of educators are expected at The National Conference on Accelerating Learning, the signature professional development event by Renaissance Learning, in Orlando, Florida, February 2-5, 2008.

Newly redesigned and expanded, the conference will be unlike any conference presented before, featuring nationally recognized education experts who will present over 100 sessions on the hottest topics in education today, including data driving decision making, differentiating instruction, closing the achievement gap, and more.

Foremost among the dozens of featured speakers will be Dr. Maya Angelou, a poet, historian, author, actress, playwright, civil-rights activist, producer and director, who is hailed as one of the great voices of contemporary black literature and as a remarkable Renaissance woman.

Also featured will be Cheryl Brown Henderson—one of three daughters of the late Rev. Oliver L. Brown (*Brown v. The Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*). Wintley Phipps, pastor, world-renowned Grammy-winning vocal artist, motivational speaker, and education activist, will also be a featured speaker at the conference.

In addition, several renowned university professors will present, including Dr. Jim Ysseldyke from the University of Minnesota, who will speak on assessment; Dr. Jay Samuels from the University of Minnesota, who will talk about reading research on fluency; Dr. Roger Farr from the University of Indiana, who will discuss the challenges of struggling adolescent readers; and Dr. Andrew Biemiller from the University of Toronto, who will address the importance of learning vocabulary.

Joining the conference activities will be best-selling children's book authors—including Patti Wilson Byars, Kathleen Duey, Mel Glenn, Patricia Reilly Giff, Hugh and Francis Keiser, Diane Z. Shore, and Jerry Pallotta—each of whom has made a significant impact in today's literature. Past attendees have found that interaction with authors is one of the highlights of the conference.

The 2008 National Conference on Accelerating Learning will also offer pre-conference sessions on Closing the Achievement Gap, Brain Research, and more. Educators interested in attending the National Conference on Accelerating Learning will find full details—including pre-conference, breakout session, and hotel reservation information—on the Renaissance Learning Web site at www.renlearn.com/nationalconference or by calling (800) 338-4204, ext. 3909.

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About Renaissance Learning, Inc.

Renaissance Learning, Inc. is the world's leading provider of computer-based assessment technology for K–12 schools. Adopted by more than 72,000 North American schools, Renaissance Learning's tools provide daily formative assessment and periodic progress-monitoring technology to enhance core curriculum, support differentiated instruction, and personalize practice in reading, writing and math. Renaissance Learning products help educators make the practice component of their existing curriculum more effective by providing tools to personalize practice and easily manage the daily activities for students of all levels. As a result, teachers using Renaissance Learning products accelerate learning, achieve higher test scores on state and national tests, and get more satisfaction from teaching. Renaissance Learning has seven U.S. locations and subsidiaries in Canada, India, and the United Kingdom.