

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Sierra Elementary wins the “Take the Next Step” Award**

*Renaissance Learning honors Rocklin, CA School at Fourth Annual National Education Conference in Nashville*

MADISON, WIS. – (February 5, 2003) With Renaissance Solutions now being used in more than 62,000 schools throughout the country, this year’s National Renaissance Conference has attracted thousands of superintendents, principals, teachers, and librarians from across the U.S.

Each year only a handful of these schools are honored with an award for their consistent and significant gains in school improvement.

This year’s “Take the Next Step” Award will be presented to Sierra Elementary School from Rocklin, California. This award recognizes a school or district that has been successfully implementing Renaissance Solutions and programs to achieve consistent and significant school improvement.

In just their first year using Reading Renaissance, Sierra Elementary scored higher than and surpassed state expectation on API. The school’s entire staff has trained in Renaissance professional development and its student body of only 300 read over 118 million words last year.

Principal Robert Capp will accept the award at a ceremony held on February 8.

The National Conference will be held February 5-8 for the second time at the Opryland in Nashville. It is organized and sponsored by Renaissance Learning, the Wisconsin based company that provides classroom and school wide solutions for improving reading, math and writing for the pre-K-12 schools. Renaissance Learning is most recognized for its first product, Accelerated Reader®.

The National Conference will feature more than 100 professional development workshops on the latest teaching techniques, research, and learning software proven to help educators accelerate learning in the classroom.

Keynotes speakers include popular children’s author T.A. Barron of the Merlin series, Patricia Polacco, and Amanda Gore.

Renaissance Learning<sup>™</sup>, Inc., is a leading provider of school improvement solutions, through research-based software products, teacher training, and consulting services. The Company's software products, called learning information systems, provide continuous constructive feedback that helps teachers motivate students, dramatically accelerate learning, improve test scores, and helps students master all standards, while reducing teacher paperwork. Adopted by more than 62,000 schools, these software products are among the most popular in schools nationwide, including Accelerated Reader<sup>®</sup>, Accelerated Math<sup>®</sup>, STAR Reading<sup>®</sup>, STAR Math<sup>®</sup>, STAR Early Literacy<sup>™</sup>, PerfectCopy<sup>™</sup>. The Company's School Renaissance<sup>™</sup> comprehensive school improvement process has been adopted by school districts across the country, and 400,000 pre-K-12 educators have received Renaissance training. The Company also provides electronic assessment products and services to educational publishers, and sells enterprise software for training and knowledge management. The Company has six U.S. locations and subsidiaries in Australia, Canada, India, and the United Kingdom.

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