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**EVERETT PLANTE JOINS HARCOURT ASSESSMENT
AS CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER**

SAN ANTONIO – Harcourt Assessment announced today that Everett Plante will join the company as senior vice president and chief technology officer on Sept. 2.

In this position, Plante will be responsible for managing all technology and information systems, including the company's systems for business administration, project management, test and item development, psychometric analysis, scoring and online testing. He will also oversee database services, systems administration and technical services.

“Everett Plante's technical expertise and broad experience managing large teams through times of significant change make him the ideal choice,” said Jeff Galt, Harcourt Assessment's president and chief executive officer. “His ability to harness technology and find effective solutions will be vital as we roll out new systems to manage our business and meet the needs of our customers.”

Prior to joining Harcourt, Plante was senior vice president for product development and client support at the Manugistics Group, a major supply chain management solution provider. He had responsibility for worldwide product development, client support and client hosting activity for the company's suite of 57 products and services.

Prior to that, Plante held a number of increasingly responsible positions in technology management. He began his career at Sysco Corporation as a programmer/analyst and rose to director of systems development and

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information services. He later held positions at Compaq Computer Corporation, most recently as director of supply chain management systems, and then at an energy company, where he was vice president and chief information officer for the company's broadband unit.

He earned a bachelor's degree in finance from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, and attended a Harvard Business School program in leadership.

Based in San Antonio, Harcourt Assessment is a leading provider of high-quality assessment instruments and testing programs. Its educational products include the Stanford Achievement Test series and the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test[®]. It also offers a wide range of clinical products, such as the Wechsler[®] family of tests, which includes the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children[®].

The company is a unit of Harcourt, Inc., which is a global publishing and education company serving students and teachers from pre-kindergarten through grade 12, adult learners and readers of all ages. Harcourt is a member of the Reed Elsevier Group plc (NYSE: RUK and ENL) -- a world-leading publisher and information provider operating in the science and medical, legal, education and business-to-business industry sectors.

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