



NEWS

From Harcourt Assessment, Inc.

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**HARCOURT ASSESSMENT JOINS SAN ANTONIO
EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP**

**FINANCIAL COMMITMENT INCLUDES STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS
AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT STIPENDS FOR TEACHERS**

SAN ANTONIO – Local education company Harcourt Assessment, Inc., announced today that it has joined the San Antonio Education Partnership and will make a significant financial contribution to benefit San Antonio students and teachers.

The company will contribute \$25,000 in scholarship funds for eligible high school seniors who participate in the Partnership's program. Partnership students sign an agreement to attain a B average and a 95 percent attendance rate throughout their high school career. All students who meet these commitments are guaranteed a scholarship to attend a San Antonio area public or private college or university.

Harcourt will contribute an additional \$15,000 to fund the Harcourt Assessment Educators for Excellence program, which the company established with the Partnership to recognize and honor five teachers selected from the 15 participating Partnership high schools. The Educators for Excellence honorees may use their \$3,000 stipends for Advanced Placement institutes or other education-related professional development coursework this summer.

"There is nothing more important than the education of our children and we are proud to give deserving San Antonio students an opportunity to attend college," said Jeff Galt, president of Harcourt Assessment. "Great students need and deserve outstanding teachers, so we are equally proud to provide professional development assistance to some of San Antonio's finest educators."

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"We appreciate the scholarship support of Harcourt Assessment that will provide students the opportunity to achieve their higher education dreams," said Gilberto Ramon, executive director of the San Antonio Education Partnership. "We are also grateful for the opportunity to recognize the significant contributions of the teaching profession to students' success."

The Harcourt Assessment Educators for Excellence honorees will be announced at the Partnership's Seventh Annual Making a Difference Dinner on April 13 at the Marriott Rivercenter. The Partnership will announce which graduating seniors will be honored as Harcourt Assessment Scholars at high school graduations in May and at the Partnership's Rising Stars ceremony in July.

About Harcourt Assessment

Based in San Antonio, Harcourt Assessment, Inc., 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[®]. Under the PsychCorp[™] brand, it also publishes a wide variety of clinical products, such as the Wechsler[®] family of tests, including the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children[®] (WISC-IV[®]) and the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence[™], as well as the CELF[®] family of speech and language tests.

Through the development of custom statewide educational testing programs, Harcourt is helping more than 20 states meet the accountability requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

The company is affiliated with the Harcourt book publishing companies, and together they form the global education brand of 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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About the San Antonio Education Partnership

Established in 1988 to improve school completion rates and student performance, the San Antonio Education Partnership is an alliance of education, business, government and community organizations that challenges, invests in and provides hope for at-risk youth. Through scholarships and support systems, the Partnership leverages educational achievement to increase graduation rates, college enrollment and the development of young people.

The documented impact of the Partnership is significant. Originally serving eight high schools and six school districts with large percentages of high-risk students, the Partnership now serves 25,000 high school students in 15 high schools and seven school districts. During the year prior to the establishment of the Education Partnership, only 19% of the graduating classes would have met the Partnership criteria. Since 1989, 57% of the graduating students have met the criteria.

Since its inception, the Partnership has awarded more than \$7.2 million in scholarships to at-risk high school students who accepted and met the Partnership challenge. Last year alone, the Partnership awarded more than \$900,000 to 2,065 students. Close to \$1 million will be provided to over 2,200 Partnership college students in the current school year.

With 95 percent of class of 2003 Partnership-eligible students earning Recommended or Distinguished diplomas, the Partnership effort continues to demonstrate significant success. Additionally, there are now more than 1,515 Partnership college graduates, an estimated 95% of whom live and work in San Antonio, thereby adding significantly to the educated workforce pool.

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