

Contact:
Mark Slitt
210.339.5399

FOR RELEASE: Thursday, June 3, 2004

**HARCOURT ASSESSMENT ANNOUNCES 2004 SUMMER
FELLOWSHIPS IN PSYCHOMETRICS**

SAN ANTONIO – Leading test publisher Harcourt Assessment, Inc., today announced that four doctoral students will spend eight weeks this summer as Slawski fellows in psychometrics at the company's San Antonio headquarters. Psychometrics is the science of measuring cognitive functions, such as learning, and is the foundation of standardized testing and large-scale assessment programs.

This year's Slawski fellows are:

Ying Cheng, a doctoral student in quantitative studies at the University of Texas-Austin. Her advisor is Dr. Hua-Hua Chang.

Abdullah Ferdous, a doctoral student in quantitative and qualitative methods in education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His advisor is Dr. Barbara Plake.

Sara Monempour, a doctoral student in social research methodology at UCLA. Her advisor is Dr. Jamal Abedi.

Haniza Yon, a doctoral student in measurement and quantitative methods at Michigan State University. Her advisor is Dr. Mark Reckase.

"These four scholars represent significant future potential in the field of psychometrics, and we are delighted they will spend their summer at Harcourt," said John Olson, the company's vice president of psychometrics and research services.

"Our Slawski fellows will have an exciting and enriching professional experience as they apply their academic training to the real-world challenges we face in our business," Olson added. "They will acquire valuable skills that will serve them well in their future careers as psychometricians, and Harcourt will benefit from the new perspectives these scholars will contribute during their fellowship."

Harcourt Assessment Announces Slawski Summer Fellows

June 3, 2004

Page 2

Harcourt launched the summer fellowships in 2000 to help cultivate the next generation of psychometricians. In 2002, the company named the program in memory of Edward J. Slawski, Jr., who had been director of Harcourt's psychometrics department until his death.

Slawski fellows are among the best students enrolled in doctoral programs in the fields of measurement, statistics, research, methodology or related areas. Through the fellowship, they gain practical experience that enhances and reinforces their academic studies. Fellows have direct interaction with professional staff and gain valuable insights into the research, development and validation of large-scale tests.

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[®]), 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.

###