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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Harcourt Achieve Teams with Renaissance Learning to Develop Innovative Reading Intervention Program

AUSTIN, TX - Harcourt Achieve, a leading publisher of learning materials and content for the education market, last Thursday announced a partnership with Renaissance Learning™, Inc. (NASDAQ:RLRN), a leading provider of daily and periodic progress monitoring systems and school improvement programs for pre-K – 12 schools, to launch Read Now with Power Up!™.

Read Now with Power Up! synthesizes the instructional intervention print materials from Harcourt Achieve's PowerUp!® with the best of Renaissance Learning's Read Now® reading intervention software to produce the most effective and affordable reading intervention program available in assisting students struggling with reading. Read Now with Power Up! will be marketed by both companies and is anticipated to be available for grades 5-9 for the 2005-2006 school year.

"With Renaissance Learning we are combining comprehensive research based focused instruction supported by innovative technology to provide teachers with the information they need to address the unique needs of every student. It's built on a proven instructional model that enables the teacher to address the individual needs of each student and accelerate learning," said Tim McEwen, president and chief executive officer of Harcourt Achieve. "We will use both Renaissance Learning's sales force and our 100 plus professional field sales force to quickly make Read Now with Power Up! available to schools who are in critical need of reaching their lowest performing students, and to school districts nation-wide."

"We are very excited, as it brings together the acclaimed reading intervention materials from Harcourt Achieve with our leading progress monitoring software in a seamless, complete, and easy to implement package. This literacy intervention package will dramatically improve the reading ability of struggling students in middle school," said John Hickey, chief executive officer and president of Renaissance Learning, Inc. "In addition, Read Now with Power Up! will be far more affordable than other reading intervention programs that are available today, which will allow more students to benefit from the program."

Harcourt Achieve

Harcourt Achieve produces learning solutions and content that fundamentally and positively change the lives of young and adult learners. Published under the Rigby, Saxon and Steck-Vaughn imprints, its products are based on a developmental philosophy that assesses learners' skills, matches them to appropriate content and accelerates them to meet and exceed expectations. The Rigby imprint offers progressive learning solutions for core reading and English language learner instruction that provide differentiated instruction to match each

student's instructional level. The Saxon imprint offers the nation's best selling and most thoroughly researched skills-based mathematics program for grades K-12, as well as popular phonics, K-3 spelling, and early learning programs. The Steck-Vaughn imprint offers easy-to-use, innovative learning solutions that accelerate content-area knowledge, reading skills, and preparation for standards-based tests, allowing learners to meet and exceed expectations. For more information, please visit <http://www.harcourtachieve.com/>.

Harcourt Achieve is part of Harcourt Education, a global education provider serving students and teachers in Pre-K through grade 12, adult learners and readers of all ages. The Harcourt Education companies are Harcourt School Publishers; Holt, Rinehart and Winston; Harcourt Achieve; Harcourt Assessment; Classroom Connect; Harcourt Religion Publishers; Harcourt Trade Publishers; Greenwood/Heinemann and Heinemann Global Library. For more information, please visit <http://www.harcourt.com/>.

Renaissance Learning

Renaissance Learning, Inc. is a leading provider of research-based school-improvement programs for pre-K-12 schools and districts. Adopted by more than 67,000 schools, Renaissance Learning daily and periodic progress monitoring systems give students and teachers continuous constructive feedback that helps motivate students, dramatically accelerate learning, improve test scores, and help students master all standards, while reducing teacher paperwork. Renaissance Learning has four U.S. locations and subsidiaries in Australia, Canada, India and the United Kingdom.

This press release contains forward-looking statements made pursuant to the safe harbor provision of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, including statements on product effectiveness and availability. Any such forward-looking statements may involve risk and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from any future results encompassed within the forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include risks affecting the Company's business as described in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Company's 2004 Annual Report on Form 10-K and later filed Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, and Current Reports on Form 8-K, which factors are incorporated herein by reference. The Company expressly disclaims a duty to provide updates to forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or other occurrences.

Web site: <http://www.harcourtachieve.com/>
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